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PM denies he's angry at Frenkel

By JAY BUSHINSKY and news agencies

TOKYO — Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday avoided confronting Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, following the latter's decision Monday to raise interest rates by a higher-than-expected 0.7 percent.

"I am not angry at the governor," said Netanyahu in Tokyo. "I am waiting to see what the decision will be next month. It's not something you can judge based on one incident."

Frenkel said yesterday that he has the full backing of Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman.

"Labor relations between myself and the finance minister are very close. Moreover, we have long since had a common understanding as regards the economy."

"The minister of finance has repeatedly emphasized that he recognizes the supreme importance of the central bank's independence, and promised that he will act to preserve that independence. I rely on him in this matter," he told *Globes* yesterday.

"The government's job is to set targets. If it wishes to set new targets, that happens in every democratic regime."

"The government must ensure that the Bank of Israel has the tools to achieve the targets," Frenkel said.

Full report, Page 11



Palestinian schoolgirls, overcome by tear gas, hold their noses and cry as they leave Bethlehem Elementary School for Girls yesterday, after the IDF fired tear gas canisters at demonstrators near Rachel's Tomb and gas drifted into the school. (AP)

IDF: PA behind Bethlehem demos

By ARIEN O'SULLIVAN

IDF soldiers firing rubber bullets reportedly wounded seven Arabs, including a Palestinian policeman who tried to open fire at Israelis, during protests at Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem yesterday.

IDF commanders in Bethlehem accused the Palestinian Authority of failing to act against the stone-throwers. Lt.-Col. Eitan, a deputy brigade commander, accused the PA of encouraging youths to riot.

"We are trying to calm the situation and are speaking with people in the PA in order to prevent violence, but we don't have any other choice except to use riot gear to disperse demonstrators," Eitan told reporters.

At first the soldiers fired tear gas to try to quell the demonstrations. Some of the gas wafted into the nearby Bethlehem Elementary School for Girls, and about a dozen Palestinian girls were treated at Beit Jallah Hospital, hospital officials said.

The army said the protesters hurled stones and bottles from the school, which is adjacent to Rachel's Tomb.

The IDF Spokesman later apologized for hurting "innocent residents" but accused Palestinians of starting the demonstration.

Later, soldiers resorted to firing

rubber bullets, and a Palestinian policeman was struck in the hand as fellow officers tried to prevent him from shooting at Israeli troops, Army Radio reported.

Eitan confirmed that the Palestinian officer was shot, saying: "The IDF is aware that a Palestinian policeman was hit. He wasn't hurt intentionally but because he was standing among demonstrators."

In all, seven Palestinians were wounded by rubber bullets fired by Israeli, Army Radio said. Other media reported only five wounded.

It was the fourth day of Palestinian demonstrations against the extended blockade of Bethlehem, the only PA-controlled city still under the internal closure imposed after the July 30 Mahaneh Yehuda suicide bombings.

In some cases yesterday, Palestinian Police were seen aiming rifles at IDF troops, but no live bullets were fired by either side.

"We know that the situation in Bethlehem could escalate and come to a situation where live bullets are fired, like last September," Eitan said.

Violence continued into last night when a number of firebombs were thrown at Israeli troops in Bethlehem and Halhoul, causing no injuries or damage, the IDF Spokesman said.

Eitan said that the closure on the Bethlehem area remained strictly for security reasons. Israel reportedly believes that the two masterminds of the Mahaneh Yehuda bombing are hiding in Bethlehem. Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak yesterday told parliamentary reporters he thought a violent flare-up in the West Bank or Gaza Strip was possible, but not in the coming days.

"I don't think there will be an explosion in the coming days. I think everyone is waiting for the arrival of the [US] Secretary of State [Madeleine Albright]. But there is no doubt that there is tension and a build-up of pressures and anger which could lead to an explosion," Shahak said, after a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said the continued closure would inevitably lead to starvation among Palestinians.

Shahak refused to comment on an unattributed report in *Yediot Aharonot* that President Clinton's advisers suggested the US wait to step in until friction between Israel and the Palestinians escalates into violent confrontations. According to the report, the advisers believe this is the only way both sides would be ready for compromise.

See IDF, Page 2

PM: Japan ready to sponsor joint water project

By JAY BUSHINSKY

TOKYO — The Japanese are not against having their funding and expertise harnessed for an Israeli-Jordanian water desalination project, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said yesterday, after two days of intensive talks with Japan's political and economic leaders.

"They raised the subject," Netanyahu pointed out, referring to his talks with Japan's defense and trade ministers, as well as to his initial conversation with his Japanese counterpart, Ryutaro Hashimoto.

"The government of Japan is prepared to allocate funds and know-how to this end. They asked for a detailed proposal. Had they not wanted to go ahead, they would have said it was difficult or dangerous," said the prime minister. He added that in all his meetings he had stressed that existing and future agreements between Israel, the Palestinians and the neighboring Arab states "could be torpedoed" by disputes over water.

He contended that "no single

state" can build seawater conversion and sewerage purification plants by itself. But once the Israeli-Jordanian project gets underway, he went on, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians might join its subsequent stages. "Japan is interested in being the driving force," he said.

The prime minister was much less optimistic about chances that Israel's military technology might penetrate the Japanese market, and conceded that the US has the inside track there. But he was upbeat about the Japanese authorities' decision to open an office of the Japan External Trade Organization in Tel Aviv in October. He said the opening will be followed by the arrival of business delegations seeking opportunities for joint research and development.

"This is the first step in a basic change in Japan's approach to the Middle East," Netanyahu said. He contended that the Japanese realize the Arabs' virtual monopoly over oil no longer exists, and that Israel's \$100 billion economy is likely to overtake that of Saudi Arabia and all the other Arab states.

Blood test developed for 'Ashkenazi' colon cancer

By JUDY SEGEL

An American Jewish researcher has developed a blood test for a type of colon cancer common in Ashkenazi Jews, after finding the defective gene responsible for the disease.

News seeped out yesterday of what is being hailed as a major breakthrough in genetic research by Dr. Bert Vogelstein of Johns Hopkins University's Howard Hughes Medical Institute in Baltimore. The results are to be published in the September 1 issue of *Nature Genetics*.

Experts expect the blood tests to be available here soon. In a telephone interview from Baltimore, Vogelstein told *The Jerusalem Post* he felt "privileged to make this contribution, which should benefit many people and save lives."

The genetic defect, present in one out of every 17 healthy Ashkenazi Jews, is believed the most common cancer-related mutation ever identified in an ethnic group.

It is identifiable in one in eight Ashkenazim suffering from colon cancer, and in one in six Ashkenazi colon cancer patients who develop the disease before age 66, Vogelstein said.

According to Vogelstein, this is the first relatively common, preventable illness that has been linked to a genetic mutation. Anyone carrying the gene has a 20% to 30% lifetime risk of contracting colon cancer, he said.

Vogelstein happened on the discovery when a friend of colleagues suffering from pre-cancerous colon polyps asked for genetic screening. Since none was available for his illness, he asked to be tested for a mutation that causes another, more rare colon cancer.

"I thought it would be a waste of time, but he insisted that I do it as a favor. I didn't find the mutation for the rare cancer, but I did identify an alteration of the cancer-controlling gene," recalled Vogelstein.

See CANCER, Page 2

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Zionist Congress centennial celebration begins

BASEL, Switzerland — Ceremonies to mark the 100th anniversary of the first Zionist Congress opened here yesterday with pressure on Switzerland to accelerate its efforts to right World War II wrongs.

Avraham Burg, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency, served notice that Jewish groups will not rest until Swiss banks repay all the money that belonged to Holocaust victims.

"Whatever belongs to us and our people should come back to our people," Burg said. "If we have one franc there or zillions, we are indifferent. We just want justice."

But Burg — who used to be one of Switzerland's fiercest critics — also went out of his way to praise the Swiss for action already taken, including a multi-million dollar compensation fund for Holocaust victims. "I love and admire all the people who took the responsibility to help your nation do what it's doing now," he said.

Around 1,700 delegates began gathering in Basel yesterday. Hundreds of soldiers and police cordoned off the conference center to deter terrorist violence or antisemitic demonstrations. Sharpshooters took

up positions on nearby rooftops. Military patrol boats that were transported from Lake Constance cruised the Rhine River near the posh Three Kings hotel, while the Swiss air force scanned the city's closed airspace.

Thirty-five Israeli high-schoolers will participate in the Congress. Fifteen are members of the Zionist Youth Council, and 20 are the "Zapkids," winners of the yearlong "Zap to Basel" contest sponsored jointly by Channel 1's *Zap Lerishon* program and the Education Authority of the Jewish Agency.

The winning high schools were Hadera Science and Arts, Ort Habonim in Bat Yam, Eylon in Holon and Katzi in Rehovot, which produced video clips that included

"Theodor Herzl" coming back to present-day Israel, and one that decided "Zionism is in the heart."

Despite the ultra-tight security, officials are hoping the ceremonies will encourage a fresh look at Swiss ties with Jews — ties that have been strained by allegations that Swiss banks hoarded the wealth of Holocaust victims.

"In addition to marking an event of global importance, the jubilee events also contribute to understanding among Israelis and Palestinians, Basel city council president Ueli Vischer told reporters on Monday. "Even if there is no direct connection, the council hopes it will also have a positive impact on discussion about Holocaust funds."

(News agencies)



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NEWS

in brief

N. Korean ambassador, trade official defect

North Korea's Ambassador to Egypt Chug Song Gil has defected and been granted asylum in the United States, possibly bringing valuable information about his country's missile sales to Iran and Syria.

The US State Department, announcing the defection yesterday, called it "the highest-ranking case" of a North Korean defector to the United States. In a coordinated move, the diplomat's brother, Chang Hung So, defected from a North Korean trade mission in France and also was given asylum, along with the ambassador's wife, said State Department spokesman James Rubin.

Meanwhile the Russian Foreign Ministry has denied reports that Russia is helping Iran develop long-range missiles. AP

Two killed, one injured in road accident

Two people were killed and another seriously injured yesterday evening in a collision between a van and a tow truck near the western entrance to Ramat Yishai on the Haifa-Nazareth road.

Police said the van, traveling from the direction of Migdal Ha'emek, apparently swerved out of its lane coming down the hill towards the junction and collided head-on with the tow truck. Two passengers in the van were killed instantly. The driver was seriously injured and was trapped in the wreckage until freed by rescue workers, and was taken to Haifa's Rambam Hospital.

The road between the Ramat Yishai turnoff and the Nahalal junction was closed for several hours. David Rudge

Meshulam follower released on bail

Eran Gabai, accused by police of vandalizing 10 traffic lights in the Dan Region, was released on bail yesterday by the Tel Aviv District Court, which decided police lacked sufficient evidence to keep him in custody.

Gabai, an activist in the Mishkan Ohalim Society and a follower of the imprisoned Uzi Meshulam, had been arrested with three others for the vandalism earlier this month. Tim

Strike, demonstrations in Majdal Shams

Residents of the Druze village of Majdal Shams on the Golan Heights staged a general strike and demonstrations yesterday in protest over an arrest - details of which cannot be published on order of the Acre Magistrate's Court.

All shops and businesses in the village were closed yesterday and scores of residents took part in a parade through the main street, waving Syrian flags. Youths burned tires at the entrance to Majdal Shams and there were reports of stones being thrown at police, who were out in force but remained on the outskirts of the village and did not intervene during the demonstrations. David Rudge

Netanya murder suspect remanded

Felix Abutbul, suspected of several Netanya murders, arson, harassment and obstructing a police investigation, was remanded for seven days yesterday by the Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court.

Judge Nira Diskin rejected a police request for a 15-day remand, but said that police information provided a basis for the allegations. Abutbul is suspected of murdering Shlomi Cohen in March 1996, his mother in February and her husband, Alex Dubinsky, in May. He is also accused of setting fire to offices of architects who refused to rent him an office, and of aiding a man who shot and wounded the son of one architect. Tim

Sharon to visit Jordan

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon will soon be going on an official visit to Jordan. This was agreed upon yesterday in his meeting with Jordanian water minister Muntazeer Hadadin.

The two discussed joint projects, especially desalination efforts. The Post was told that agreement was reached on all subjects raised.

Meanwhile, work on the controversial Yarmuk dam is reported to be proceeding as scheduled, despite reports of a Jordanian protest regarding the dam's location. Sarah Honig

IDF

Continued from Page 1

The Prime Minister's Office also refused comment.

Israeli, Palestinian, and US security officials discussed security cooperation Sunday night.

PA chairman Yasser Arafat said yesterday there has been great improvement in cooperation since it was reestablished this month. Asked whether the time was ripe for Albright to visit, Arafat said: "Definitely, and we have a witness, an American witness," referring to the CIA's involvement in the talks.

But Cabinet Secretary Dan Naveh maintained that the PA was still not fulfilling its commitments.

"These [security] meetings sometimes achieve minimum, pinpointed and limited results. But you have to look at the main issues and these are to do with everything dealing with the war against terror and nothing has been done," Naveh told Army Radio.

Haim Shapiro adds:

The Papal Nuncio to Israel, Monsignor Andrea di Montezemolo, yesterday expressed concern to senior Foreign Ministry officials about the situation in Bethlehem.

He said after the meeting that the Holy See was worried because the general situation was very tense. He noted that since the closure, many pilgrims have been unable to enter the town where Jesus was born.

Liat Collins contributed to this report.

With profound sorrow we mourn the passing of our dear father and grandfather

EDUARD (Edi) FRANKEL

The funeral will take place today, Wednesday, August 27, 1997,

at 11:30 a.m., at Sdeh Yehoshua cemetery (Sha'ar Oren), Haifa.

His daughter, Irit Kenig
His grandchildren, Orly and Tal

With great sorrow we announce the sudden and untimely passing of our beloved husband, father, grandfather and brother

JOSEPH (Joe) HOFFMAN

The levaya will take place tonight at 11:00 p.m. at the Sanhedria Funeral Home, after the arrival of El Al Flight 348 from Zurich. Interment at Har Hamenuhot

Margit Hoffman, Michael Hoffman and family,
Judy Goldstein and family, Eva Meyer,
Benjamin Hoffman

Syria promises peace if Israel pulls out of Lebanon and Golan

By DAVID RUDGE

Syria yesterday called on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to withdraw from south Lebanon and the Golan Heights, promising peace with security in return.

A special broadcast on Damascus radio pledged that a complete and unconditional pull-out by Israel would receive the full support and encouragement of Lebanon and Syria, the Arab world and the international community.

In return, according to the broadcaster, Syria and Lebanon were

prepared to offer peace, which was known to be the best form of real security.

According to an Israeli radio report, the special broadcast, as well as editorials in the Syrian press, were in response to comments made by Netanyahu in Japan which implied that Israel wants to withdraw from south Lebanon but is being prevented from doing so by Damascus.

The Syrian radio report maintained that neither Syria nor Lebanon would present any obstacles to an Israeli withdrawal from

south Lebanon and the Golan Heights. If Netanyahu tried to implement such a move, the only opposition would be from the war-mongers in his own government, Damascus radio maintained.

The *Tishrin* national daily stressed, however, that Syria and Lebanon would not surrender to Israeli provocation or attempts to dictate terms.

Meanwhile, there is growing criticism in Lebanon of the Grapes of Wrath monitoring committee. This follows the refusal of the group last week to condemn Israel

for South Lebanese Army shelling of Sidon last Monday in which six people were killed and over 30 wounded.

The shelling of Sidon prompted retaliatory Hizbullah Katyusha rocket attacks on the Galilee which the monitoring group condemned, saying it was the responsibility of the Lebanese government to prevent Hizbullah from launching such attacks.

Lebanese newspapers quoted sources close to the Syrian and Lebanese delegates to the committee as saying that the Americans

are refusing to put pressure on Israel and the French representative sided with his US colleague instead of acting as an arbitrator.

"Do we still need this monitoring group," the *As-Safir* daily asked in an editorial.

There have also been reports of deteriorating ties between representatives to the group, with no direct contact or dialogue between Israel's delegates and those from Syria and Lebanon. According to the reports, all discussions are conducted through the US and French representatives.

Shahak: Hizbullah increasing attacks in southern Lebanon

By LIAT COLLINS

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak told the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that Hizbullah is trying to increase its attacks on the IDF and the South Lebanese Army as well as on Lebanese civilians including those north of the security zone.

According to an official briefing, Shahak said there is a new phenomenon in which Hizbullah is not only not accepting responsibility for the attacks but is trying to blame them on Israel. This includes the recent attack on Lebanese children at Markaba.

He noted, however, that the committee monitoring the understandings reached following the Grapes of Wrath campaign continues to meet to discuss complaints.

Shahak said there are constant attempts to attack the soldiers, mainly via shootings and roadside bombs. There have recently been three bombs operated against the SLA, he said.

Committee chairman Uzi Landau (Likud) told reporters that there is no reason for the government to seek a resumption of the talks with the Syrians while life in northern Israel is disrupted by Katyusha attacks.

"The government should instruct the army to exact the price from all those involved in Lebanon, first and foremost, the criminal giants, not necessarily the little dealers," he said. "The little dealers are Hizbullah, but behind what is going in is first and foremost Syria, while the Lebanese government watches what's going on with pleasure. There is an extensive civilian infrastructure in Lebanon and there are Syrian military camps in Lebanon. It's not acceptable that Katyushas should fall on IDF outposts and the Syrian soldiers should be free."

Landau said the source of the problem is the understandings reached after Operation Grapes of Wrath and Operation Accountability. "They determined the rules of the game under which it is permissible to attack us but we cannot hit back."

He said he believed it would be a mistake to resume talks with Syria while this was the basic understanding.

Shahak said he believed the Hizbullah is committed to the understandings reached after Operation Grapes of Wrath and neither Syria nor Lebanon are interested in an escalation of tension.

MKs are scheduled to hold a solidarity meeting in Kiryat Shmona today with residents and officials from the North.

Japan-Israel: A marriage made in economic heaven

By MIKE JACOBS

TOKYO — Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told a packed Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan luncheon yesterday that the future of the Israel's survival was the same as in its ancient past; the ability to ask and answer questions.

"We may have a small body," he assured the audience, "but we also have a big head."

Connecting Talmudic skills with the development of post-industrial technology, the prime minister laid down for the world's press a dynamic future linked with the USA and Japan, from whence the world's new milk and honey will flow.

Gone are the days of Zionist ideals for working the land alone, Netanyahu said. "Working with the mind is now the greatest source of economic wealth in the modern world."

The premier also said the failure of Soviet communism to capitalize on the outstanding R&D skills of the Russian Jews was a stroke of good fortune for Israel.

"We now have the highest per

capita of scientists in the world," he said. "We may well spend a lot of money on defense, but this has also produced the cutting edge of intelligence technology which filters down to a rich marketplace."

Upon being reminded that Israel's technological trade with the United States is eight times greater than that with Japan, Netanyahu smiled. "Not to worry. That means there's plenty of room for Israel to expand its trade with Japan."

"For the new sophisticated electronic devices, we can supply lots of innovation... all we need is a marketing partnership. Japan and Israel is a marriage made in economic heaven."

With many more stable regions wooing Japanese investment, Israel is still seen here as a shopping mall for take-away technology. But Netanyahu personally invited leading Japanese manufacturers to next year's Prime Minister's Jubilee Conference in Israel, which will focus on the electronics sector.

"Then they can see why companies like Philips, Siemens and Intel have invested in Israeli production facilities," Netanyahu said.

CANCER

Continued from Page 1

He searched his database for similar mutations.

"I found one with the same tiny alteration; looking at their names, I quickly identified both as Jews of Ashkenazi origin, just as I am," Vogelstein said.

Armed with these clues, Vogelstein and colleagues Steve Laken and Dr. Ken Kinzler took blood and tissue samples from a few hundred Ashkenazi Jews with colon cancer. They found that one in eight carried the mutation.

They also found that not only was the mutation harmful, but it made it more difficult for cancer-preventing

genes to multiply. The defective genes couldn't manufacture a protein required to keep normal colon cells from multiplying wildly, and they became cancerous.

In their research, Vogelstein and his colleagues focused on a piece of DNA called the APC gene. Scientists have known for six years that mutations in this gene can cause colon cancer. However, Vogelstein found a new genetic variation in the gene called a polymorphism, that also predisposes to cancer.

"We always thought polymorphisms were harmless, meaningless variations, just like the word 'color' can be spelled 'colour' as well. But now we know that instead of this polymorphism directly causing tumors to form, it makes the gene

unstable and prone to additional damage from carcinogens," he said.

He said the discovery could be important for kidney, breast or prostate cancers which may also involve the same polymorphism mechanism.

Johns Hopkins has begun to offer Vogelstein's blood test for \$200.

The American Society for Clinical Oncology recommends tests only for Ashkenazi Jews with colon cancer or with first-degree relatives who have had pre-cancerous polyps or the disease, he said.

The Health Ministry said it would consider the issue when it arises.

Prof. Eitan Yefeh-Nof, acting director of the Lautenberg Center for Immunology and Cancer Research of the Hebrew University and Hadassah in Jerusalem, said he expects public funds would eventually cover screening costs for those genetically at risk.

If the defective gene is identified in an individual, he should undergo a colonoscopy for signs of any pre-cancerous polyps or a tumor. If caught early, the polyps can be pinched off during colonoscopy, but if found at a more advanced stage, surgery is necessary.



PFLP member Imad Sabi's wife Reem and two-year-old daughter Dinah hold a family portrait. (Reuters)

IDF agrees to detainee's release for study abroad

By JON IMMANUEL

The IDF yesterday agreed to release an administrative detainee on condition he went abroad to study.

The case of Imad Sabi, 35, arrested 20 months ago for membership in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, aroused media attention because of the eloquent articles he wrote from a prison cell to newspapers in Israel and the US.

He received a scholarship to pursue a master's degree in the Netherlands, and the IDF agreed that he could accept it on condition that he remain there for four

years.

"Israeli public opinion was hugely aroused by his case," said Sabi's attorney Tamar Peleg.

A large part of his appeal was his ability to speak to Israelis in terms they understood, quoting Amos Oz and other writers to great effect, in a damning indictment of administrative detention.

Taking issue with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's claim that administrative detention is effective, he noted: "Of course it is effective... bombing a building to eliminate a thief is effective. It depends on your purpose. It depends on your

view of human life and its worth."

B'Tselem, a human rights group concerned with Israeli treatment of Palestinians, said that both his release and his arrest were arbitrary, since the IDF rejected an identical request to study abroad last year, on the basis that he could pose a security risk from Holland.

"This suggests that the security risk is determined by the amount of public pressure brought to bear," B'tselem wrote.

Some 370 Palestinians remain in administrative detention, several for more than three years.

Israel releases PA colonel

By ARNOLD O'SULLIVAN

Israel yesterday released a Palestinian police commander suspected of planning attacks on Jewish settlers in Samaria.

Col. Munir Abushih told *The Jerusalem Post* he was interrogated, handcuffed and hooded at the Kishon Jail for 39 days, but confessed to nothing because the charges were groundless.

"I was freed when they saw that the charges against me were false," Abushih said in a telephone interview from his Tulkarm headquarters.

"They had nothing on me. They interrogated me intensively at the Kishon Jail, but it was meant more as psychological harassment, since I had nothing to tell them," Abushih said.

"I tell you frankly and now that I

am dismissed, myself and most of my colleagues are for peace, and realize that we have no other option," said Abushih.

Abushih said he feels he was released due to pressures from his PA colleagues and US security officials.

Abushih was arrested by Israeli security agents in Tulkarm after three PA policemen were captured heading toward the settlement of Bracha near Nablus. Israel has said they were on their way to attack the settlement on orders from senior Palestinian officers.

The Prime Minister's office refused to comment on Abushih's release. Israel has claimed it has evidence that Palestinian police chief Ghazi al-Jabali was directly involved in planning an attack on Bracha, and wants him extradited from the Gaza Strip.

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Higher rate of diabetes in South

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Health Ministry and health authorities in the Beersheba area were shocked to learn from a recent epidemiological survey that the rate of adult-onset diabetes in the South is twice to three times what it is in the country as a whole.

In addition, the number of foot and leg amputations due to diabetic infections is twice as high in the Beersheba area as in the rest of the country.

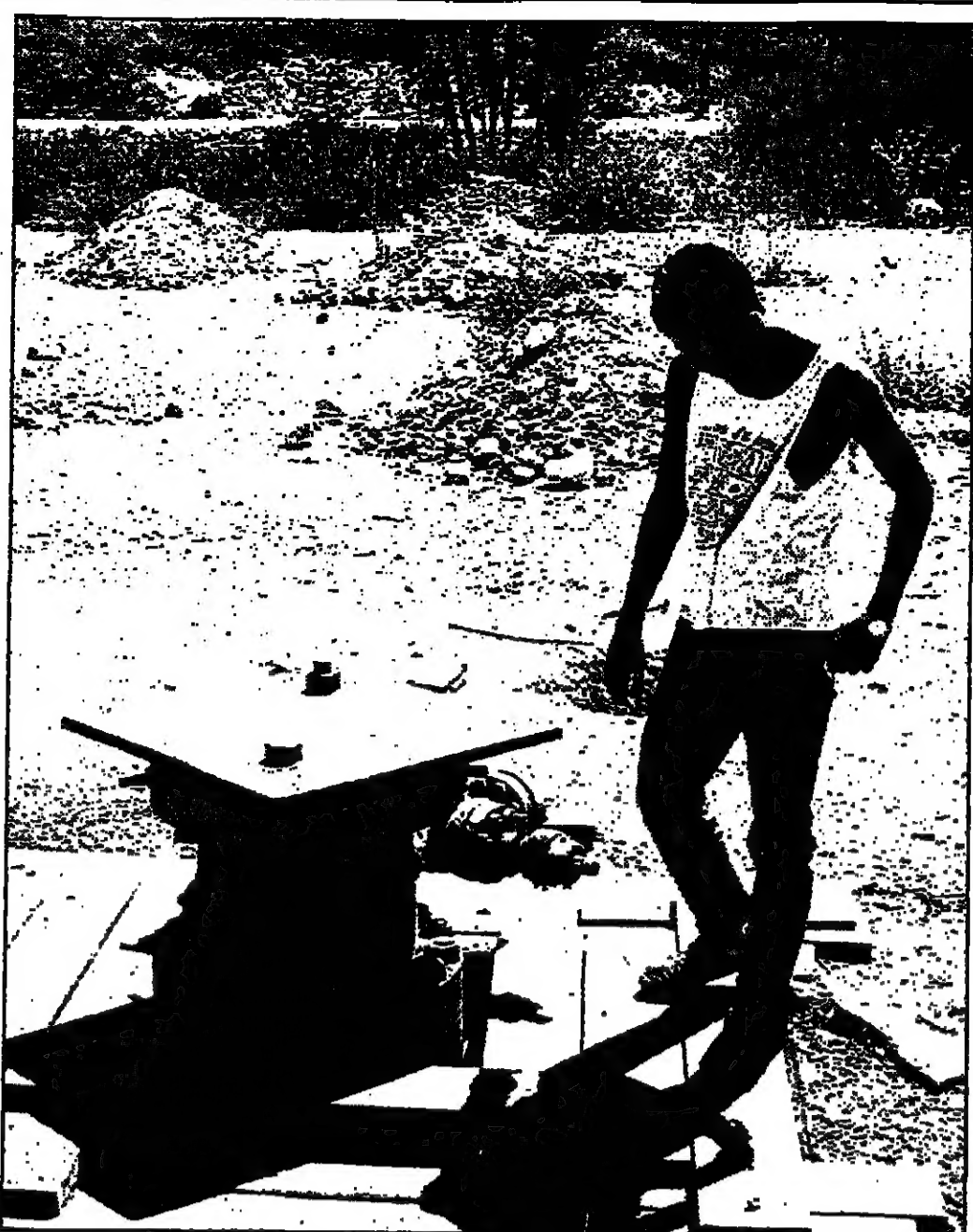
Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, who was alerted to the problem this month, has decided to support the establishment in Beersheba of a walk-in, interdisciplinary diabetes center, where all patients may undergo monitoring and treatment.

The district health profile of Beersheba – the first of its kind – was written by Prof. Ted Tulchinsky and Dr. Gary Ginsberg, both of the ministry. It will be followed by similar regional epidemiological studies in Ramle and Acre.

Tulchinsky said that not enough is known about why southern residents are at such high risk for Type II diabetes, but among the hypotheses are difficult access to medical care, low awareness of diabetes complications, the area's relatively large numbers of Sephardi (and especially Moroccan-origin) Jews, who have a predisposition to the disease, and the influx of untrained immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

The ministry, the health funds, Ben-Gurion University and Soroka Hospital are currently holding meetings on the establishment of the diabetes center, and looking for sources of funding.

The full story of diabetes in the south will be presented on Sunday's Health Page.



Well-oiled

This well-head near Rosh Ha'ayin may be sitting above one billion barrels of recoverable oil. Geologists for Givat Olam Exploration say the surrounding 400 square kilometers may also contain a trillion cubic meters of natural gas.

School year closer to beginning on time

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The chances that the school year will begin on time improved yesterday when school district directors were informed by Education Minister Director-General Ben-Zion Dell that pupils would enjoy the same number of hours they had before cuts made during the past school year.

However, Secondary School Teachers Association spokeswoman Rivka Kanarek said last night that "not one of the principals we spoke to received any such directive," although she said she had heard of an internal order sent to district heads.

"We have not seen any written document," she said, "and for us, this is nothing different than the promises we got yesterday in the Knesset from Ben-Zion Dell. On a personal level, we believe him, but

we want to see these things implemented, and we want to see the tenured teachers who were fired get their jobs back before we agree to call off our strike threat."

According to a ministry spokesman, the instructions regarding the hours are included in a new directive prepared by Yitzhak Cohen, head of the ministry's Pedagogic Administration, which was sent to the ministries' district offices throughout the country.

According to the ministry, the new directive replaces a previous one which was sent out during the course of the year, announcing the cut of two hours per class per week.

The directive also stated that the 1997/98 school year would be the first stage in the implementation of the long school day in all the nation's schools. The district heads were asked to prepare a plan for the long school day's implementation

in their districts. School principals and teachers will be responsible for implementing these plans in areas where the long school day will be introduced this year.

A ministry spokesman said that this year, the school day will be lengthened in poorer neighborhoods and in confrontation line towns with populations of less than 10,000. Pupils in these areas will go to school for 41 hours a week.

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer praised the new arrangement, and said that in implementing it, all barriers to the opening of the school year on time had been removed. Hammer said efforts should be made to erase the bad feelings that emerged during the struggle over the long school day, so that they do not overshadow the happiness involved in the return of some 1.5 million pupils to school.

Matza blasts irregular PA funding to health services

By JUDY SIEGEL and news agencies

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza last night issued a stinging attack on the Palestinian Authority for serious irregularities discovered in the PA's health institutions, after the PA comptroller found that not all the funds meant for health services were actually reaching these institutions.

"While Israel is falsely accused by the PA of refusing to give Palestinians medical treatment in Israel, the PA itself is guilty of serious irregularities. When money meant for health and saving lives disappears, this is much more serious than some ordinary error," Matza said. "The disappearance of these funds joins the PA's failure to transfer money to Israeli hospitals that treat Palestinians. I fear this will force us to reach serious conclusions in this matter – although we will always be careful to separate politics from the need to protect public health."

The Health Ministry also vehemently denied a claim that Israel is testing drugs on Palestinian prisoners, calling the claim "utter nonsense."

Yasser Abed Rabbo, the Palestinian minister of information, said the Health Ministry has issued 1,000 licenses to pharmaceutical companies "to test dangerous drugs on Palestinian and other Arab prisoners."

He made the claim in a July 24 letter to his counterpart in the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, which was released to the press yesterday.

"The story is utter nonsense," ministry spokesman Yair Arad said. "Not only do we not conduct experiments on Palestinian prisoners, we do not conduct experiments on prisoners at all."

Zvilli revives Peres-for-president plan

By SARAH HONIG

Labor's former secretary-general Nissim Zvilli yesterday tabled another proposal to elect ex-party leader Shimon Peres to the custom-made office of party president. The proposal is to be deliberated at Labor's convention in September.

Peres dissociated himself from Zvilli's move, but many in the party believe he was involved in reviving the idea.

Zvilli first proposed his idea before the election of Ehud Barak as party chairman three months ago. At the time, Barak vehemently opposed the move, pronouncing it an attempt by Peres to cement his hold on the party. The party convention last April sided with Barak, and a humiliated Peres announced that he would not seek the office again.

Yesterday, Peres issued a formal statement reiterating his refusal to accept the heretofore non-existent post. He said he was not interested in it, and will not stand in September.

Zvilli maintained last night that he alone was behind the new proposal, but Labor pundits note that Peres met with Zvilli for a lengthy two-a-side yesterday, immediately prior to Zvilli's announcement that he was again tabling his proposal.

This has led many Labor insiders to suspect that while Peres was going on the record as declining the nomination, he was in effect endorsing, if not actually initiating the move.

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Writing in *Ma'ariv* Efraim Sidon tells the legend of the yeshiva student who magically split in two, so that each part of him resided in a different yeshiva – only to unite again at night, with his wife and home.

Thus he got paid twice, for when Jewish community leaders went to the Paris to ask for funds, they got money for both halves of the same student, who practiced the rule: "be a Jew at home, and two Jews in the yeshiva."

In Jerusalem, Sidon says, referring to the alleged haredi yeshiva fraud exposed by Channel One earlier this week, this miracle happened not just once but to thousands of yeshiva students.

The allegations against several haredi bodies accused of receiving funds from the Jerusalem municipality and education ministry for students registered in more than one yeshiva, does not surprise Yosef Lapid of *Ma'ariv*.

Lapid writes that the real robbery of hundreds of millions of shekels of tax payers' money is committed not by fraud, but by legal allocations made to haredi institutions. He says this is because some yeshivas teach students to evade military service, not to work and to eschew the state's values.

"The great robbery of state funds takes place on the basis of coalition agreements, with the knowledge of both left and right wing leaders. No wonder haredi circles regard the secular public that finances them as 'a stupid goy,'" Lapid says.

Weizman's role
Ha'aretz columnist Yoel Marcus praises President Ezer Weizman for his courage to say "what he wants whenever he wants, whether Bibi likes it or not. Granted, he was not elected to run state affairs, but nowhere does it say that he must act like a plastic doll."

Marcus writes that Weizman may be impulsive and outspoken but that he exhibits extraordinary intuition about saying the right thing at the right time. Amid a string of bombing attacks a year and a half ago, Weizman incensed Peres when he called for a "time out" to rethink the peace process. Had Peres listened to him rather than treat the bomb casualties as "peace victims" perhaps he would not have lost the elections, muses Marcus.

Now, when Weizman says the situation is on the verge of an explosion and warns of war, it annoys Bibi no end. But it doesn't mean he is not right, Marcus says.

Marcus concedes what Weizman is doing isn't exactly proper. But it's also not proper for a civil servant to attack the president, or for ministers to attack the High Court.

Also improper was the way that Roni Bar-On was appointed attorney-general, the way the government gives in to religious demands and many aspects of the cabinet's decision-making process. "Of all the improper things in government, I wouldn't start with fixing on the impropriety of the president's freedom of speech," Marcus writes.

Bibi and his people are furious. The government has no real resistance, Labov's opposition isn't felt, and the Knesset has turned into a rubber stamp. The vacuum created in the political arena has sucked in Weizman, who with his big mouth alone fulfills the role of the opposition.

"True, it's not proper, but it is also not proper to lead the state to the verge of war," Marcus concludes.

Law and Justice
The Israeli justice system sent out two clear messages this week, writes Ran Kislev of *Ha'aretz*, who criticizes the double standard used in treating Arabs who hurt Jews and vice versa.

The first message was in the case of soldier Noam Friedman who was charged by a military tribunal of shooting and wounding five Palestinians in Hebron. Anyone convicted of these charges could be sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment or more.

But although Friedman pleaded guilty to the charges, the court decided to freeze proceedings against him, finding him "insane

and not responsible for his acts during the shooting."

Instead of prison, he was sent to an open mental hospital with plenty of home leave and freedom to attend daily studies in a yeshiva, Kislev writes.

The second message came from the Jerusalem District Court, which sent the three border policemen charged with beating two Arabs to home custody.

Both messages say: our legal system is a model of compassion and understanding for hoodlums who abuse those weaker than they, even if they shoot or wound them. On condition, of course, that the victims are Palestinians.

Whoever heard of a Palestinian being sent by our court to a mental home for shooting at Jews? Or of an Arab sent to home arrest after attacking a Jew? Kislev asks.

A terrorist is a terrorist, and a hoodlum is a hoodlum, regardless of his national affiliation and who he hurts, he writes.

Ma'ariv's Rafi Mann argues the importance of enforcing the law, whether against homeless squatters in Mevasseret Zion or the pirate right-wing radio station Arutz 7.



Ministry of Immigrant Absorption

Submission of Requests for an Allocation from 1997 Legacies
Further to the notice of the Public Committee on Utilizing Bequests to the State:

Public institutions (as defined in Principles of the Budget Law 1985) are invited to submit requests to the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption, for an allocation from funds derived from bequests.

For 1997/8, the Ministry has decided on the following priorities: employment, education and educational enrichment, culture and tradition, welfare, science, art and sportsmen/women, and special sections of the population.

Institutions that make requests should detail their activities, connected with immigrant absorption. Requests, which should be submitted by September 30, 1997, should be sent only to the Coordinator of the Jerusalem Committee, only by registered mail or personal delivery, to 2 Rehov Kaplan, Government Compound, Jerusalem (Tel. 02-675-2772).

A complete copy of the request should also be submitted to the Public Committee on Utilizing Bequests to the State (17 Rehov Kaplan, Tel Aviv 64734).

Requests arriving at the Ministry after the above date will not be considered.

Institutions that wish to obtain copies of the request forms and further particulars should apply to the Coordinators of the Committee - at the Head Office of the Ministry, and at district offices, and bureau heads of the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption.

Requests must be submitted, in accordance with the established rules, as promulgated in Yalkut Hapirsunim No. 3182 of February 21, 1985, in Yalkut Hapirsunim No. 3800 of September 19, 1990, and in Yalkut Hapirsunim No. 3986 of March 26, 1992, and so as to suit the procedures of the Committee, as published in Yalkut Hapirsunim No. 4335 of September 21, 1995, and the amendments to the rules, as published in Yalkut Hapirsunim No. 4392 of March 17, 1996.

Some 50 fragments of medieval manuscripts are now at the Israel Museum. Sounds dull? Well, they form one of the most exciting and moving exhibitions I have ever seen.

Meir Ronnen
The Jerusalem Post

THE CAIRO GENIZA SEMINAR



In 1896 at the Ben Ezra Synagogue in the Fustat area of old Cairo, Prof. Solomon Schechter of Cambridge University revealed to the world the staggering contents of its Geniza. 140,000 fragments were given to the Cambridge University for study. In the whole history of Judaic studies there has never been a more dramatic event than the discovery of these ancient documents. Poetry, prayers, accounts of journeys, files, tens of thousands of handwritten documents, some signed by the Rambam himself, and much more. A hundred years have passed and still not all the material has been

studied. Now a selection on loan from Cambridge is on view in Jerusalem. It presents a vivid picture of the spiritual – and not so spiritual – mores and business dealings of a medieval Jewish community.

Shorashim and The Jerusalem Post Travel Club invite you to a weekend seminar with the experts, Prof. Stefan Reif, Head of the Cairo Archive, Cambridge University, and Prof. Mordechai Akiva Friedman, Jewish Culture in Moslem Lands and Cairo Geniza Studies, Tel Aviv University.

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'All I can do is sit, wait and hope'

By ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

Naomi Gavriash was red-eyed and exhausted yesterday. The 69-year-old Jerusalemite couldn't sleep a wink after watching the reunion of mother Margalit Amos and daughter Tsila Levine on the evening news. All she could think of was the baby boy that was taken from her in 1949.

"All I can do is sit and wait and hope that I should be so lucky as to find my child the way Margalit Amos did," she said, her voice cracking. "I've done everything I can to find him. I've been to all the meetings and committees, I've done radio and television interviews, but mostly I wait and I wait. I'm happy for Margalit, but sad for myself. I want to see my son."

The Amos-Levine reunion, and the fact that DNA tests have provided a firm basis for the claim that Yemite babies labeled as missing or deceased in the 1940s and 50s were in fact put up for adoption, has reignited the hopes of elderly women like Gavriash. It is also likely to bring pressure for further government investigation into the disappearances. Amos and Levine are scheduled to testify today before a special government committee on the issue, which has served as a rallying point for the

followers of the controversial self-styled rabbi Uzi Meshulam, who is currently in prison.

Gavriash's story is one of the more dramatic of the tales.

She says that when she was at a camp for new immigrants in Haifa, she went to the building where the babies were being cared for in order to nurse her three-month-old son. While she was there, she noticed people taking several babies away, and asked where they were going. Communicating with the staff was difficult since she spoke neither Hebrew nor Yiddish, but a woman finally told her in Arabic that they were being taken for "examinations" to Be'er Ya'acov for a week or two.

They asked for her baby as well, she recounts, but she refused. "So one of the men held back both of my arms and they took my baby away from me," she says. "They drove away and I ran after them crying and screaming."

"Afterwards, I went to this place every day for nine months to find out where he was. They kept telling me he was in different hospitals, but neither I nor any of the other mothers could travel to any of them because we had no money. We were just told not to worry, that this was the Land of Israel, that nobody here would

take our babies from us."

Gavriash claims that she was never told that her baby died, or even that he was missing, and that to this day she has never gotten an official explanation of his fate.

Naomi Sharabi, manager of the Ezrat Avot geriatric day care center which Gavriash attends, said she first learned of the elderly woman's story when "I noticed that she always sat with her arms held in a peculiar position, as if nursing a baby." When she asked Gavriash why, "she told me in tears that she couldn't help it, that she can't stop reliving the moment they stole her baby. For her, something in life will always be missing until she finds out what happened."

Sharabi says that she has heard several similar stories among her geriatric patients, in the tightly-knit Yemite community - and within her own family.

"My sister was almost taken from my mother as a baby. She learned that they were about to take the babies away to 'the hospital,' and my grandmother bravely suggested that they kidnap my sister from the nursery in order to prevent her being taken. So my mother sat with a blanket on her as if she were nursing, while my grandmother took off with the baby and got on a bus. I shudder

to think that if they hadn't taken this step, my sister could have been one of the missing children."

Sharabi says that it is "infuriating" that even after the Amos discovery, some people still question the veracity of the stories.

"Even on the radio this morning," she said, "a man claimed that the children were not taken, that their mothers simply abandoned them."

How can anyone say that? That's like saying someone chopped off their own finger and just left it somewhere. We're talking about people's missing children - anyone who watched Margalit Amos reunite with her daughter can see it is important. Talking that way is like rubbing salt in the wounds of the mothers like Naomi Gavriash, who are still waiting to meet their children."

Levine, Amos, visit home

Tsila Levine, reunited recently with her birth mother, Margalit Amos, yesterday visited the children's house in Rosh Ha'ayin that her mother was told she disappeared from 49 years ago.

Amos, who accompanied Levine, recalled the last time she saw her daughter before her disappearance.

"Here, in the evening, I fed her, like every day. The nurse took her from me, and the next morning when I came, as usual, they wouldn't let me see her. I asked the nurse, who knew me, what's with my daughter, but she kept saying that she didn't know."

She wouldn't find out for almost five decades that Levine was adopted by the Rosen family on Kibbutz Ein Hamifratz.

When Levine started to cry during yesterday's visit, Amos told her: "Enough crying. Now we will be happy and laugh together. I have spent my whole life crying. 50 years. Now I am calm. Be calm like me."

Attorney Rami Tsubari, who helped Levine locate her mother, told Army Radio that since the reunion was made public 50 families had contacted him with similar stories, asking for help.

(Irm)

Local radio growing in popularity

A survey by the Advertisers Association released yesterday showed local radio stations growing in popularity, and the *Yedioth Aharonot* daily maintaining its position as the nation's most widely read newspaper.

The poll was conducted last April and May of 1,500 people, representing 2.3 million Israelis, not including haredim, Arabs and children under 13.

Prof. Avi Degani, scientific director of Geocartographica, which did the survey, said that 14 percent of those questioned listened to local stations, up from 8.9% a year ago.

He found that local radio was reaching 30,000 to 60,000 listeners nationwide, a number which Degani feels makes the stations marketable to advertisers.

Degani believes the main loser to these stations is Israel Radio's rock music channel, Reshet Gimel, whose listeners dropped from 19.8% of the population a year ago to only 8.2% this year. Reshet Bet, with its program of news and talk shows, is heard by 25% of the population.

The survey showed that *Yedioth*

Aharonot continues to lead the other newspapers with a readership of 48%, as compared to 18.8% for *Ma'ariv*, and only 7.1% for *Ha'aretz*.

On the weekends, readership of the dailies rises to 63% for *Yedioth Aharonot*, 24.8% for *Ma'ariv*, and 7.3% for *Ha'aretz*.

Degani also noted that ironically, as the number of news media increase, the number of Israelis who use them seems to shrink.

A separate survey conducted for the Israel Broadcasting Authority, showed that 54% of Israelis watch the weekly *Popolitka* program on Channel 1. It found that 30% watch the show regularly and another 16% watch it once or twice a month.

The survey was conducted by the Kono Shiluv Company during the first week of August. A random sample of 1,008 people aged 18 and over were questioned.

Meni Pe'er's show *At Meni's* was reported to be watched by 38.5% of Israelis. Sixteen percent watch it every week while another 15% watch it once or twice a month, the survey showed. (Irm)

Ministry puts out flu shot reminder

By JUDY SIEGEL

People at high risk for complications of influenza are urged to get vaccinated against it no later than the end of November, the Health Ministry announced yesterday.

The high-risk population includes children aged six months and over and adults who suffer from chronic illnesses; all those over the age of 65; medical teams who treat high-risk patients; tourists planning to visit tropical countries and all travelers who will go to the southern hemisphere from April through September 1998.

The ministry has stipulated the strains of flu viruses that will be common this winter: A/Wuhan, A/Bayern and B/Beijing. The vaccine must be suited to the virus strains known to attack in the 1997/8 season.

One may get a flu shot along with a vaccination against any other disease. Reactions to the shot are rare. One should not get a flu shot if one has fever. People who are allergic to egg albumen should consult with their doctor before getting the shot.

Kupat Holim Clalit has begun sending out half a million postcards inviting members at high risk for influenza to come in for free vaccinations. Its campaign, unprecedented in size, begins in September.

Only a few years ago, the health funds were stingy in their provision of free flu shots, but it has become clear that preventing the elderly and chronically ill from coming down with the flu saves many millions of shekels that would otherwise be spent treating complications requiring hospitalization.

Clalit director-general Dr. Yitzhak Pelegberg called on the other health funds to follow its example and provide free vaccinations to members who are at high risk.



Talking business

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon welcomes Kazakh Ambassador Itmova Bergenhein to his office in Tel Aviv yesterday. The two discussed economic issues, including possible investments in industrial and agricultural projects. (Gideon Markovitz)

Int'l postal service omits Israel

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Postal Authority yesterday objected to the omission of Israel's name from a list of postal codes published by the Universal Postal Union, an international agency based in Switzerland that coordinates national postal services.

Moshe Tery, director-general of the Postal Authority, sent an angry letter to UPU director-general Thomas Leavy.

"A further verification has now shown that the name of Israel was also omitted in other publications, such as 'Postal Statistics,' and not

only once but year after year," he wrote.

The omissions were particularly blatant in publications that had been translated into Arabic.

Tery said he was "absolutely shocked" by the fact that such things occur in an organization whose main objective is to "contribute to the attainment of the noble aims of international cooperation." He added that leaving Israel out was "obviously intentional" and "illegal, insulting and inappropriate. It constitutes a blatant violation of the principles and regulations of the UPU."

Ramat Hovav council head slams Eitan

By LIAT COLLINS

The head of the Ramat Hovav Industrial Zone Council, David Milgrom, yesterday attacked Environment Minister Raphael Eitan, accusing him of giving journalists partial and unchecked information during a tour of the zone earlier this week.

Milgrom stressed that the council is committed to protecting the environment despite the difficult conditions. He said the council would continue to implement all government ministry decisions relating to the industrial area. He in particular criticized Eitan for telling the press that the Environment Ministry will prosecute the council if it does not submit a schedule this week for the establishment of a biological wastewater treatment plant at the site.

"Threatening the council and its leaders, as the Environment Ministry has done, in no way contributes to the environment," said Milgrom, who was ill and unable to accompany the minister on Sunday's tour.

He said 26 percent of the council's budget, or NIS 4 million, is dedicated to treating wastewater and dealing with problems created

in the past.

He said an interim report on a hydrological survey initiated by Ramat Hovav but funded by the ministry could not pinpoint a source of the pollution found at a drillpoint for underground water. It also cannot state whether the pollution is ongoing or the result of previous deficiencies which have now been rectified. Pollution from the emergency evaporation ponds, constructed to solve more serious problems, will continue as long as the ponds are exposed, the report states.

Milgrom said the report noted the efforts over the past decade to improve the system of wastewater disposal.

He said the council initiated the plan to build the biological treatment plant, which should help end the stench caused during the evaporation process. Milgrom said the tender for the plant would be published on Friday. On September 15, there will be a tour by contractors. The tender procedure will end on November 30, and building could commence by December 31.

The wastewater facility has been in the process of being created since July 1994, and a pilot project was completed in 1995.

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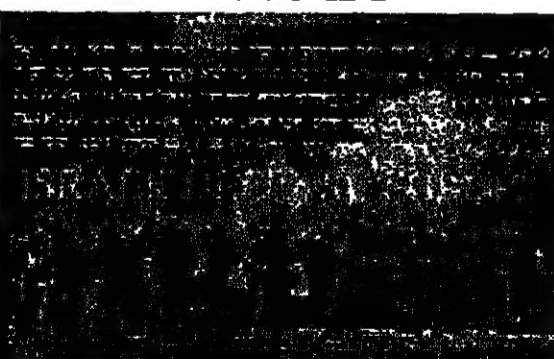
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F.W. de Klerk leaves politics

CAPE TOWN (Reuters) — South African opposition leader F.W. de Klerk retired at 61 yesterday to help his National Party shrug off its apartheid baggage.

Political analysts said, however, that the process would be hampered by the lack of a credible black leader to step into his shoes.

De Klerk, telling a news conference of his decision to step down effective September 9, said that because of more than 10 years of service in apartheid-era cabinets, his opponents had made him a symbol of "a guilt-laden past."

"That symbol is removed now," he said. During his eight-and-a-half years as leader of the party, de Klerk presided over its efforts to expand support beyond the previous whites-only electorate, and succeeded in wooing a majority of the country's Coloureds — people of mixed-race descent.

Yesterday he said 15 percent of blacks also supported the National Party, but independent political analysts say that in its pre-

sent form it cannot hope to rival the popularity of President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress.

"If they're going to make a breakthrough into black African support, then a black African leader is the person to go for [as successor]," said David Welsh, professor of politics at the University of Cape Town. "But the reckoning is there really isn't anybody who is of the stature, which they must profoundly regret."

Most speculation about a successor has focused on conservative Hennis Kriel, premier of Western Cape province where the party has majority support, and Marthinus van Schalkwyk, a relatively young MP regarded as a progressive.

Welsh said the race to succeed de Klerk was wide open but van Schalkwyk, who entered parliament in 1987, had not been as tarnished as some other party leaders by the apartheid legacy.

"De Klerk has been somewhat tarnished by his involvement in the old order, so he's done the right thing," Welsh said, adding: "He's the biggest political asset the party's got. Many thousands of people, particularly Coloureds and Indians, were voting for de Klerk rather than for the National Party."

De Klerk appeared to confirm this view in his news conference, saying there had been many pleas for him to stay on but that he had resisted the pressure. Jannie Gagliano, a political scientist at the University of Stellenbosch, said the party relied heavily on de Klerk and suffered from a lack of depth in leadership.

"There is no obvious successor. Those who are available, seem to be encumbered by so many weaknesses... as soon as F.W. is out of it, they are really going to sink rather low," Gagliano said. He dismissed van Schalkwyk as "a lightweight."

"The National Party has been in demise,

and this will probably accelerate the process, but it will probably limp on."

Gagliano said de Klerk's departure was unlikely to cause an exodus of support to Roelf Meyer, once the party's crown prince but now in opposition to it after quitting earlier this year over his vision for attracting black support.

The analysts said the resignation of de Klerk did not necessarily spell disaster for the National Party in general elections due in 1999.

"I don't think there's going to be any serious defections to the African National Congress... I think they [the NP] will remain their position in general elections when the issue is: Let's oppose the ANC," Gagliano said.

Welsh said he expected the major parties to do proportionally about the same in 1999 as they did in the last election in 1994, when the ANC won 62 percent and the National Party won around 20%.

Column One

Poison grain and political dementia

By Thomas O'Dwyer



The moguls of the International Monetary Fund were in Nairobi yesterday, but the economic pundits of Embakasi slum were more interested in scooping up the free toxic maize the government had sent them.

Out of the patchwork shanties they scrambled in the heat of the Kenyan summer — old men, women and children, clutching sacks and plastic bags to gather the poison grain.

The toxic maize was dumped in the bleak quarry over the weekend from five trucks, accompanied by police officers and officials of "a quality-control organization."

They had promised that the stuff would be completely destroyed. After all, it's a health hazard.

The sacks of grain were splashed with gasoline and set ablaze, but the fire quickly fizzled out. It may be poison, but a gift horse from the government is not to be looked at too closely in the mouth.

"Thank God and the government," cackled one elderly man. "We hope they will bring us more free food now that elections are coming."

Not so, said another slum-dweller, clutching his bag of maize. "Our politicians don't care about us. All they do is practice cheap politics and leave us hungry!"

He said he would brew beer with his loot.

Basket case

Poor old Kenya, once a golden "hope of Africa," is now just another crumbling basket case, suffering from a tropical epidemic of ruler-blindness and political dementia.

Kenya was always something special to the British — like India — a proud nation that could not be kept down.

It was proclaimed a crown colony in 1920, but foreign domination of the rich plateau lands of the White Highlands was always resented by the native Kikuyu.

It was from this unrelenting tribe that Jomo Kenyatta led the fierce Mau Mau resistance in 1952.

It was the first anti-colonial terrorist organization in Africa, and it spread the sort of dread among British imperial mandarins that was achieved by Michael Collins's IRA and Archbishop Makarios's EOKA.

Kenyatta too was banished and jailed, only to return as first president when Mau Mau won the struggle for independence in 1963.

Post-colonial "fathers of the nation" enjoyed rare indulgence for their economic and political failures. The president's Kenya African National Union (KANU) was the only party allowed to exist.

Domestic and foreign indulgence began to wear thin for the next generation of leaders, but their sins were glossed over by the "political necessities" of the superpower cold warriors.

It was just another form of colonialism — a handout-for-being-good colonialism. It bred a generation of corrupt leaders, and reduced their countries to little more than empty shells centered on the palace.

Crunch time

Daniel arap Moi, Kenyatta's successor, fits the mold. He has ruled since 1978 — another "president for life" — no one wants any more.

During his rule over what could be an immensely rich and successful country, Moi has hit the headlines only for endless harassment of political opponents and anti-democratic consolidation of his personal powers.

Now the crunch has come. The International Monetary Fund froze a \$140 million aid package to Kenya on July 31.

This coincided with increasing political violence, but the IMF cited high-level corruption and plain bad government. Hence this week's IMF mission in Nairobi and some hard talking with El Presidente and his senior officials, who of course were totally unaware of any graft until the IMF raised the subject.

The IMF wants the government to come up with some swift answers and sharp policies before opening the till again.

After 20 years of steadily worsening corruption and political decay, no one is expecting miracles when Moi meets the rich white men tomorrow.

Killing spree

Some Kenyans hoped that the negative effect of violence on tourists on the beaches and in safari parks would concentrate ministerial minds.

Alas no. The ruling KANU yesterday boycotted much-heralded talks with an umbrella group that has gathered all reform elements together to try and get some sense past Moi's swishing fly whisk.

Kapu says it is committed to talking with the opposition about pre-election reforms. But it will talk only to elected members of parliament, not to the impressive array of consensus opponents organized by the churches.

The groups want sweeping political and constitutional reforms before the elections which Moi must hold this year. These reforms are absolutely vital if Kenya is to have even a slim chance of getting back on the road to democracy.

A score of demonstrators and policemen have been killed in the past six weeks.

More chillingly, around Mombasa, a major tourist center, over 40 have died in a "mysterious" outbreak of murders smelling of death squads.

KANU, Moi's mouthpiece, said the civil rights movement "can only lead to violence and possible civil war."

As opposed to what? Free maize for everybody when the IMF leaves town? And a party for the president-for-life.

Zhirinovsky opens grocery store

By DANIEL WILLIAMS

MOSCOW (Washington Post) — A half kilo of cottage cheese, please, some kielbasa, a loaf of rye and a carton of milk. No NATO expansion today, thank you, but the sliced Soviet Union looks good. And how's the chopped Boris Yeltsin? It's one-stop shopping for food and politics at Zhirinovsky's Grocery Store, the latest innovation in the career of Vladimir Zhirinovsky, Russia's most flamboyant and unpredictable politician.

Zhirinovsky burst onto Russia's political stage six years ago by appealing to a sense of grandeur and frustration over the hard times that accompanied the shift from communism to capitalism.

His ultranationalist, incendiary statements won him attention and votes, to the horror of both Yeltsin and Washington.

Despite repeated electoral setbacks, he has maintained influence through party organization. Along with the Communists, his Liberal Democratic Party is the only opposition force that can field candidates nationwide.

Now he is trying to alter his image a bit. The grocery store shows a kinder, gentler Zhirinovsky, aides say.

"We are showing that our leader cares about what the people care about. Most people care nothing about politics, but they're very interested in finding sour cream at a good price," said shop manager Mikhail Bashaglov, a member of parliament from Zhirinovsky's party.

The store opened a month ago in a quiet neighborhood near Moscow State University. A clean, well-lit place, it regularly discounts certain products. A color portrait of Zhirinovsky is the only decoration.

Customers said they came for the bargains, not the politics. Nevertheless, several editions of Zhirinovsky's party newspaper were stacked on a table, free for the taking. One featured the headline "Patriotism is an Effective Way of Uniting the People and State." An article on the back page was about demonstrations against NATO expansion.

Despite Zhirinovsky's frequent anti-Western outbursts, the store sells numerous foreign goods, including yogurt and cognac. The vodka, however, is Russian, and his personal brand, Zhirinovsky Vodka, takes up most of the space on the vodka shelf. His portrait adorns the label.

Zhirinovsky's is run by a business arm of the party, Bashaglov said. Russian political parties largely are financed privately, often by business donations, but this is the first known case of a party starting an enterprise on its own.

Stories abound of Zhirinovsky's parliamentary faction taking money in return for votes. Most party property is registered in Zhirinovsky's name, making him a real estate magnate, Petrov said. Zhirinovsky's personal political star has been fading. He finished fifth in last year's first round of presidential voting, and polls show that the Russian public puts him far down on the list of potential candidates.

He shows no signs of giving up his trademark pugnacious political style.

Zhirinovsky wants to see Alaska, purchased by the United States from Russia in the 19th century, returned to Moscow.

He makes fun of opponents' physical features. He said, for instance, that Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov ought to have a wart removed from his forehead so as not to frighten voters.

Zhirinovsky also campaigns tirelessly for the restoration of the Soviet Union and maintains that Russians want another Joseph Stalin — "without the gulags and mass repression."



Belgium says goodbye to landmines

A Belgian soldier holds two anti-personnel mines in front of a train loaded with 500,000 mines at Bertrix station in southern Belgium yesterday. The train is bound for Germany, where the mines will be destroyed. In 1995 Belgium became the first nation to outlaw landmines.

Mir faces new problems

By ADAM TANNER

MOSCOW (Reuters) — The crew of Russia's ailing space station Mir have fixed their oxygen generating systems after a brief time without fresh air, but hit another snag yesterday while trying to aim the solar panels they repaired last week, officials said.

The US space agency NASA said Monday that Mir's two working oxygen systems — its Elektron generator and a back-up system of oxygen "candles" — had failed, briefly leaving the crew with just a few days' supply of bottled oxygen.

Russian Mission Control officials first denied there had been any problem, then played it down yesterday, saying the three-man Russian-American crew solved it within an hour.

"The situation is as follows — the Elektron is working, the system which uses candles is working, and one Elektron which is in Kvant-2 is not working because there was no electricity there," deputy flight director Viktor Blagov told Reuters.

The older back-up Elektron-2 oxygen system in the Kvant-2 module has been off since June 25 when the Spektr module was holed in a collision, causing a major loss of power. The crew may be able soon to turn on that system following wiring repairs they carried out on Friday aimed at restoring most of the station's energy supply, Blagov said.

"Yesterday we turned on Kvant-2, and now we will work on the Elektron-2," he said.

Another problem loomed, however. NASA reported that the crew were unable to point Spektr's solar panels toward the sun.

"Commands sent to the solar arrays, to try to slew, or move them into a better orientation to face the sun, were not successful," NASA said.

British-born NASA physicist Michael Foale, 40, is on Mir with Russians Anatoly Solovoyov, 49, the commander, and flight engineer Pavel Vinogradov, 43.

On Friday, the crew reconnected cables inside Spektr linking its solar panels with the mother ship. But if

the panels do not face the sun they generate less power than Mir needs.

Mir has run on 60 percent of its usual power since the accident. Officials say if Spektr's three working solar panels — a fourth was smashed in the collision — can be made to work properly they will boost this level to 90%.

"We can generate some power from the solar arrays even if they are not pointed in the best possible direction," said Sergei Pozharov, a member of the NASA team at Mission Control.

"At this point we cannot say that it is not functional because it will be some time before they figure out what was wrong with the solar array control system," he said.

It may be the motor, it may be the wrong commands to the computer, it may be a broken line. Flight director Vladimir Solovoyov, no relation to Mir's commander, told reporters Spektr's solar panels were already transmitting power, but it would take several days before they know just how much energy Mir will gain overall.

"One solar panel is lost because of the collision. We are trying to turn on three solar panels — that is three quarters of the overall energy — and I hope we'll succeed by the end of the week," Solovoyov said.

Solovoyov said the crew would restore some power today to Kristall and Priroda, two scientific modules off since June.

In preparation, engineer Vinogradov was mopping up moisture that had formed in Kristall since it was switched off.

"He's got to dry it up. They're using fans, the ventilation system, heaters, they can also use napkins," said Mission Control spokesman Valery Lyndin.

President Boris Yeltsin said during a visit to Samoylov in central Russia that the repairs had revived the ageing Mir.

"There is nothing tragic there. In fact the kids work really well and the American specialists agreed with us on that," he said. "They thought the station was finished. They thought we could no longer do experiments on it...but it's still alive."

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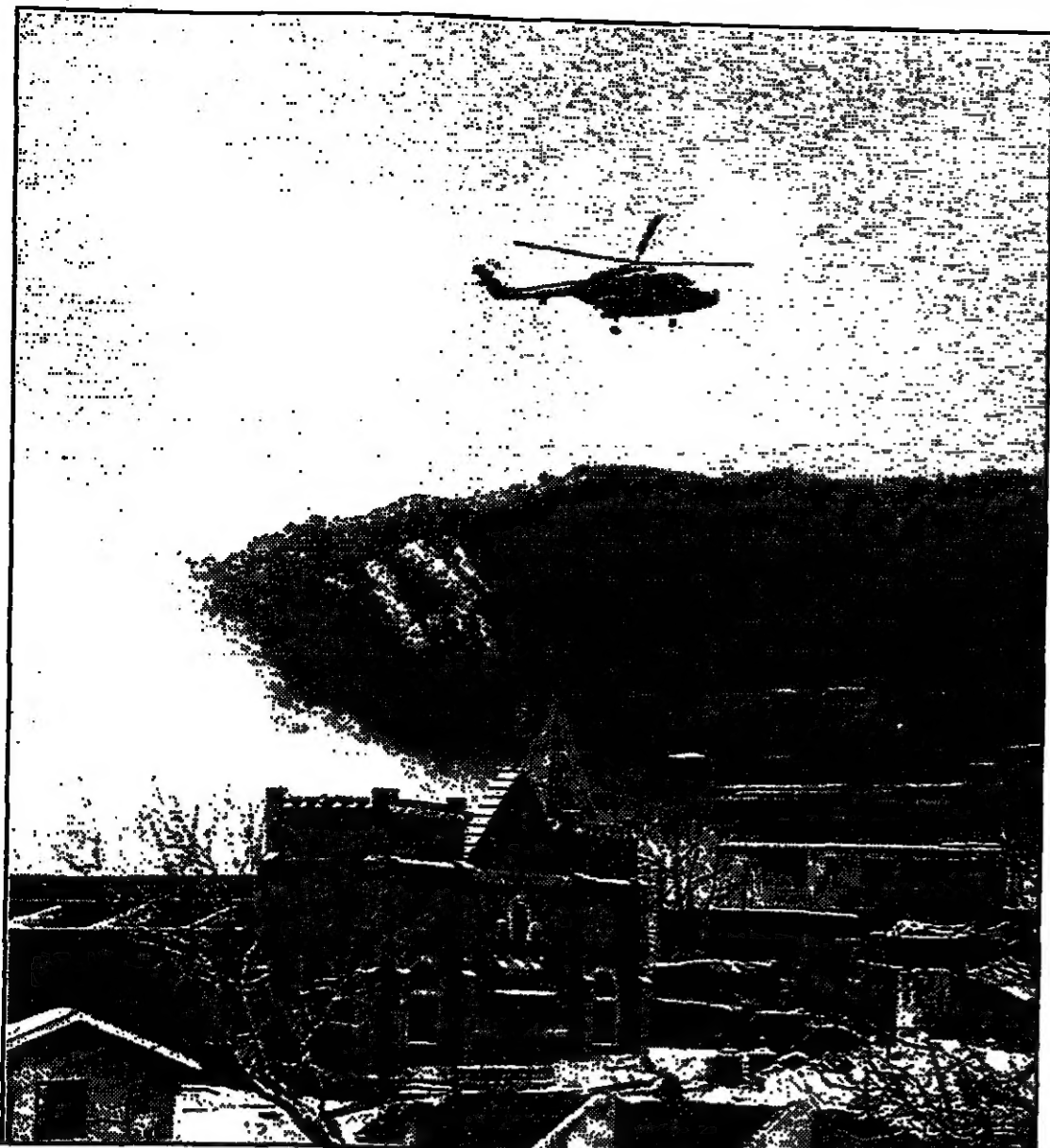
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A Lynx helicopter from the British Royal Navy's HMS Liverpool surveys the volcanic damage over Plymouth, Montserrat. (AP)

Coping with calamity

Struck suddenly by a volcano which had been dormant for centuries, inhabitants of the Caribbean island of Montserrat ponder a very uncertain future

By SERGE F. KOVALESKI

PLYMOUTH, Montserrat — In Montserrat's epic battle between man and nature, nature — in the form of the Soufriere Hills volcano — is triumphing, threatening the viability of this onetime paradise in the eastern Caribbean.

Nearly two years of violent eruptions have ravaged large swaths of the island with fast-moving rivers of superheated gas, rocks, ash and boulders the size of boats, destroying hundreds of homes and burying villages. Plymouth, the capital of this British dependency, today looks like a post-apocalyptic ruin. The country's economy has effectively been annihilated, as has the farming sector, just when this tiny island was becoming self-sufficient in producing many key crops.

Since the volcano awoke in July 1995 after centuries of dormancy, more than half of Montserrat's 12,000 residents have fled to other Caribbean islands, Britain and the United States, while others have been placed in shelters, some of which are in deplorable condition.

Two thousand people have abandoned the island in the last eight weeks alone, following several more devastating eruptions. One of those events, on July 25, claimed at least 19 lives — the vol-

cano's first and, so far as is known, only victims — and forced the closing of Montserrat's airport.

Over the weekend, the British government began a voluntary evacuation program, ferrying residents by boat to Antigua, about 50 km. northeast of here. Officials said that as many as 600 people have registered to be evacuated and receive financial assistance for relocation, a process that will be carried out over the next few weeks with the support of Britain's Royal Navy.

Observers and government officials here expressed concern about the growing flight from the island, saying it does not bode well for the future of Montserrat, which needs between 2,000 and 3,000 residents to remain here to be a viable, functioning place to live. Large numbers of businesses and banks have already been forced to close because of the dearth of customers.

At the same time, most neighboring islands, wrestling with high unemployment and other problems of their own, have made it clear that while they are sympathetic toward the evacuees they do not want to take them in permanently. Many people in Montserrat, however, have relatives in Britain, which has relaxed residency restrictions for the refugees.

The volcano crisis has been accompanied by spasms of social

unrest and political instability here. Residents have staged sporadic demonstrations, complaining that their living conditions continue to worsen unabated, that the British have not reacted swiftly enough in helping the island and that the Montserrat government has fallen short in securing more generous resettlement packages from London. Amid the groundswell of discontent, Montserrat's highest-ranking local official, chief minister Bertrand Osborne, resigned last Thursday.

"I feel like we are slowly being wiped off the face of the earth," said Jean Beckett, 39, who has been living in a government-operated shelter near Salem with her husband since their home was obliterated by lava a month ago.

"I don't know how in God's name we can rebuild from this. Our capital is gone, livelihoods are gone, no one seems to be doing much about it, and the only sounds you hear that mean anything are the rumblings of that horrible volcano."

In the meantime, scientists here said that the most likely scenario for Soufriere Hills is that its activity not only will continue at current levels but may increase over the long run, belching greater amounts of the combination of superheated gas, ash and rock known as pyroclastic flow.

"There is consensus among all the senior scientists involved that this crisis has now entered a stage for which there is little precedent in other well-documented eruptions, and that there is an urgent need to consider the future outlook and hazard implications in light of the escalating pattern of activity," the Montserrat Volcano Observatory said in a draft report prepared for the Montserrat government. A copy of the report was obtained by *The Washington Post*.

"The prospect of larger explosive eruptions over the coming weeks and months is significantly increased and the areas with substantial populations in the center of the island are now at much higher risk than before," it concluded.

Government officials said that an estimated two-thirds of the 100-sq.-km. island, including Salem, the provisional capital, has been designated as an "unsafe zone" and that the safe portion of Montserrat, where governmental, commercial and personal activity is now centered, has been reduced to about 33 square kilometers.

While most of the devastation from Soufriere Hills has been concentrated in the southern and western sections of the island, the encroaching threat of the volcano has forced an increasing number of people and institutions to flock to safe havens in the north.

British officials said that overcrowding in the northern part of the island was part of the reason for planning the voluntary evacuation.

At the evacuation center in Brades on Saturday, where refugees were being processed before boarding a ferry to Antigua, Cynthia Peters expressed misgivings about leaving her husband and their evacuated home behind while she headed for London, but said that the havoc wreaked by the volcano had worn her out.

"I'm tired of running. I'm fed up with sleeping with friends or in a car," she said. "I was in Kinsale and had to run. Then I was in Salem and had to run again. I am just exhausted. So why not leave?"

But her husband, William Peters, 60, who like other die-hards has decided to weather the turmoil created by the volcano, offered a different perspective: "I am a responsible citizen and I have interests here. I just can't pick up and go."

"For one thing, I don't think I can get a job anywhere else. I have to remain here and fight. I fight the government and the volcano," said Peters, who owns a small baking business.

To survey the hardest-hit parts of the island is to witness devastation of surreal proportions. In Plymouth, what used to be the capital's vibrant streets today are vast stretches of gray ash piled two meters high in some parts. Buildings and homes have been reduced to burned-out shells, some crushed by immense boulders. A phone booth in the center of town lay buried in the ash almost to its top. The smell of intense heat and fire still wafts through the air, and the only sign of life during a recent visit there was a stray dog.

The island's one hospital, recently constructed to replace the one leveled by Hurricane Hugo seven years ago, was destroyed; its staff now operates out of a school in a nearby town. The main seaport, in Plymouth, has been shut down, but an emergency jetty has been built in Little Bay in the north so that boats can rescue people in case of a full-scale evacuation. Elsewhere on the island, the airport has been closed and there are no operating hotels.

An estimated 1,100 people have been placed in shelters, some of them in buildings that are not completed and in substandard condition.

"They dumped us here like we are animals," said Dorothy Gordon, who is staying at a shelter at the Briggs Primary School with her 15-month-old baby and 12-year-old son. "The cooking areas are not complete, so people can't eat full meals, and neither are some of the bathrooms."

Montserrat government spokesman Herman Sargeant said that the British government plans to start building emergency housing in the north, and the Caribbean Community and Common Market intergovernmental organization has committed to constructing a village there for people displaced by the volcano crisis. Other infrastructure projects, however, have been frozen by the British for fear that a cataclysmic eruption could occur, Sargeant said.

In the meantime, Montserrat is seeking financial assistance from the European Union.

Recently, tensions have developed between the Montserrat government and the British over the amount of the resettlement packages being offered by London. Sargeant said that among the assistance the island asked England to provide is the equivalent of \$14,800 to heads of households, \$11,100 to spouses and \$7,400 for children over an 18-month period, plus airfare.

For people moving to other Caribbean countries, however, the British are offering \$3,840 for each adult and \$960 for individuals under age 18 over a six-month period, as well as airfare; a package for those going to Britain offered less cash but substantial social-service guarantees.

(Washington Post)

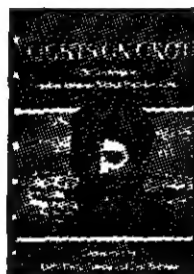
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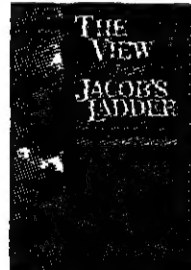


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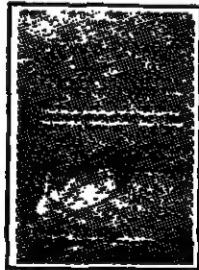


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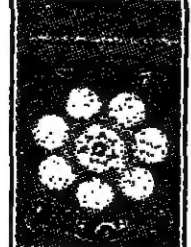


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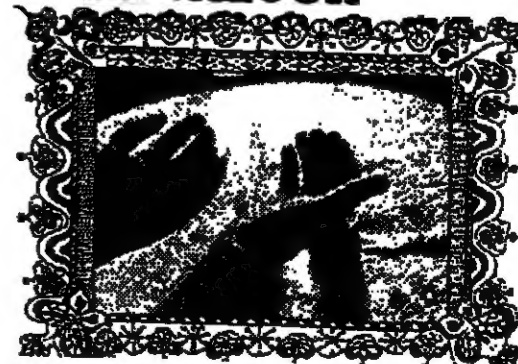
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Friday, August 27, 1997
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An image problem called Stalinism

Even in the face of millions of starving children, many nations and people have problems donating relief funds to North Korea

By KEVIN SULLIVAN

SEOUL, South Korea — The young mother sat on a North Korean riverbank with her infant son. She looked listless and sickly, hot and weak. Then she leaned over and vomited violently. When the convulsions stopped, she sat up and cradled her baby in her arms before lying down on the rocky ground. Her baby sat over her motionless body, wailing and trying to rouse her.

This glimpse of life inside staunchly isolationist North Korea greeted millions of South Koreans when they turned on their television sets this summer. The mother's collapse was the opening sequence in an hour-long documentary on network television, a nearly non-stop montage showing North Koreans weakened or dying from hunger.

The video footage, along with photographs of emaciated and sick children that have been printed in newspapers and magazines around the world, have had an impact. Private donors in South Korea have donated \$18 million in the last two months, more than triple the total they contributed in the last two years.

When the UN World Food Program issued an appeal for \$45m. last month, most of that amount was raised in less than a week — a record. When the food program issued an appeal for just \$8m. for North Korea in 1995, the world yawned and donations fell \$1m. short of the goal.

As North Korea lets a few cameras inside its closed borders, the "stealth famine" is coming into focus, and aid agencies say they are no longer finding that the outside world doubts the severity of North Korea's problem. But that's only half the battle: Even in the face of millions of starving children, many nations and people still have trouble writing a check for the Stalinist pariah state.

"We are beyond disputing whether this is a need; it's well established that the hunger problem is real," a US official said.

"But the North Koreans are not warm and fuzzy and likable people."



Monuments to arch-autocrat Kim Il Sung still cast dark shadows over North Korea as it seeks inroads to the West. (AP)

A lot of countries remember sending goods up there and not getting paid.

Then the North Koreans sell drugs to keep their embassies abroad afloat, they blow up airliners and they talk like jackasses. The incentive to give is reduced.

The historical animosities are hard to erase. A Korean War veteran sent an e-mail to The Washington Post's Tokyo bureau recently complaining that if the US sent even one grain of rice to North Korea, "it would be done on the graves of 57,000 Americans who

died in the Korean War." Others say feeding North Korea has the long-term effect of extending the life of one of the world's most repressive and brutal regimes. That, they argue, will ultimately lead to more human suffering than the famine will cause.

Aid agencies continue to urge the world to distinguish between starving innocents and the totalitarian government whose stubbornness and failed policies have caused the problems.

"Large amounts of food aid are needed urgently. It's the only way of feeding the millions of

hungry people who are suffering through no fault of their own," said Catherine Bertini, executive director of the World Food Program.

But many people still can't bring themselves to offer large-scale aid, partly because of nagging suspicions that food destined for starving children ends up feeding a soldier whose artillery piece is pointed at Seoul.

Members of a bipartisan US congressional delegation that visited North Korea this month said they had been denied access to areas affected by two years of flooding and this summer's severe drought. The delegation's leader, Rep. Porter J. Goss (R-Florida), said the US would be unlikely to provide significant new food aid unless North Korea made its distribution "fully transparent and verifiable."

Rep. Jane Harman (D-California) said the group believed much of the food aid going to North Korea actually reaches hungry people. Harman said the delegation had no proof that food was being diverted to the military, but she said North Korea's secretive system makes it easy for that to happen.

No such diversion of food has ever been proven.

"We believe our system works, and we have had no allegations of diversions," said Bertini, who has numerous World Food Program monitors inside North Korea to oversee food distribution.

Bill Richardson, US ambassador to the United Nations, said in an interview in Tokyo a week ago that there was no doubting the need for food in North Korea. "We do think the (food) situation is getting worse.... It is well documented."

But North Korea is suffering from its own ineptitude at public relations. It refuses to allow aid groups or journalists to visit the worst-hit areas. Its appeals for outside help have been unprecedented, but a half-century of preaching self-reliance seems to have made North Korea unable to admit the full extent of its problems.

As a result, television, with its unmatched power to move people, has broadcast almost no footage of starving North Korean

children.

"In Somalia or Rwanda, people saw these pathetic pictures on TV and right away they sat down and wrote a check for \$25," an aid worker said. "That alleviated their guilt and made them feel like they were doing something. We got millions of dollars that way. But it isn't happening in North Korea."

North Korea also continues to use aid as political leverage, consistently demanding massive food aid from the US in return for its participation in peace talks with American, South Korean and Chinese diplomats. US officials refuse to link aid to the peace talks, and many see North Korea's dogged insistence on doing so as little more than blackmail.

Pyeongyang's biggest image problem is its continuing bad behavior.

Last September, as aid groups were trying to persuade the world to help starving North Koreans, Pyongyang sent a submarine full of commandos into South Korean waters. The sub grounded, and dozens of people on both sides were killed before the incident was over. North Korea sells missiles to Iran, and Pyongyang has been linked to trafficking in heroin and opium and counterfeiting US \$100 bills.

Still, more international aid donors, moved by credible and dire reports of starvation, are starting to ignore North Korea's unattractive government and trying to feed its people.

Japan said last week that it was considering donating \$10m. in aid, despite its concern over recent reports that North Korea kidnapped several young Japanese people in the 1970s and may still be holding them in Pyongyang.

Despite the misgivings of some skeptics in Washington, the US has contributed slightly more than \$60m. the last two years, in increasingly large portions — by far the largest share of the \$212m. in aid that the World Food Program says has been donated to North Korea since 1995. The food agency calls the amount raised so far "a drop in the ocean" compared with what is needed.

(The Washington Post)

The beast is back

By MIKE CLARY

MIAMI — Toothy, tough and terrifying, the crocodile is one of Earth's dogged survivors, and one of mankind's worst nightmares.

"They are right up there with sharks, snakes and spiders, one of the few species that commands almost a reflexive fear," said biologist Frank Mazzotti. "On seeing a crocodile, most people think, 'This animal wants to eat me.'"

In Florida, home of the only crocodile native to the United States, that fear helped push the 200 million-year-old reptile to the brink of extinction, even though the American crocodile is not much of a threat to humans. The croc's hide was coveted for fashionable shoes and handbags, its coastal habitat was perfect for beachfront development and many were killed just for sport.

As recently as 1978, three years after being declared an endangered species, estimates of the US population of the American crocodile fell to 200, and a US Park Service report estimated that fewer than 20 females had nested the previous spring.

Now the beast is back. Although the American crocodile remains the rarest reptile in North America, "Today we have more crocodiles in more places in Florida than we did 20 years ago," said Mazzotti, a University of Florida professor, who puts the current number of adults at between 400 and 500.

Two decades after being declared an endangered species, the American crocodile population is gaining ground.

"In terms of recovery, I think we can get the population back to what it was before we started altering the habitat, maybe 2,000 to 3,000 animals. I'm cautiously optimistic."

This year scientists have located more than 50 nests in Key Largo, Florida Bay and Biscayne Bay near Miami in a range that slowly is expanding up both coasts of the Florida peninsula. Adult crocodiles have been found as far north as Fort Lauderdale on the Atlantic coast and on Sanibel Island on the Gulf of Mexico, according to Mazzotti.

Six crocodiles recently discovered on the grounds of the Marco Island airport are between 11 and 13 feet long, said Mazzotti, "the biggest I've ever seen."

Along with serendipitous nesting sites, the crocodile also has been aided by some restoration of the freshwater flow through the state's midsection. Dams and canals that had cut off much of that southward flow resulted in a rise in coastal salinity that may have disturbed reproduction.

The rebound of the American crocodile has stirred fears among some south Floridians, even those who may be quite familiar

with the common American alligator, an animal that sometimes can be seen in a public park or grinning cartoonishly as a university mascot.

Although alligators and crocodiles are cousins, they are very different animals, scientists point out. Alligators are blackish in color, have rounded snouts and thrive in freshwater lakes, canals and streams throughout Florida and into the Deep South. There are an estimated 1 million alligators in Florida alone, and they are known to be much more aggressive than the American crocodile.

Veteran biologist George Dalrymple theorized that the croc's narrow snout and more obvious teeth give it a mean look, whereas the broad-headed alligator "seems to be smiling."

Still, crocodiles do have a bad reputation. In folklore and legend from parts of Africa, Asia and Australia, where saltwater crocodiles can grow to 23 feet in length and weigh more than a ton, the largest reptiles on Earth often are used as symbols of evil.

And they have attacked people. Crocs are said to have savaged almost 1,000 Japanese troops retreating through a Burmese swamp during World War II. A Peace Corps volunteer from Cornell University was eaten by a crocodile in Ethiopia in 1966. And 40 passengers on a sinking Indonesian ferryboat were devoured by crocs in 1976.

In Florida, only one crocodile attack on a human has been documented, and that occurred in 1925, when a 14-footer reared up and seized a Biscayne Bay surfer who reportedly had fired two bullets into the animal. The surfer died, but the croc survived and was shipped off to a north Florida tourist attraction to perform under the name Zulu.

Here, crocodiles have more to fear from humans than the other way around. Last spring a Key Largo man was charged with interfering with an endangered species after he caught a 9-foot crocodile on a treble hook baited with a chicken. He faces a fine of up to \$500 and a sentence of up to 60 days in jail. And last month four men and two teenagers in Plant City, near Tampa, were charged with climbing over a fence at a reptile park and clubbing a pair of crocodiles to death with wooden planks.

The odds of seeing a crocodile in the wild are remote. The casual observer has a better chance of spotting one as road kill along busy US 1, which passes right through the crocodile's habitat. An average of two a year are hit by cars, Mazzotti said.

(The Los Angeles Times)

Economic woes mar Ukrainian independence day

By IRENE MARUSHKO

KIEV — Ukraine celebrated its sixth anniversary of independence from Soviet rule on Sunday, and the main surprise for its detractors is that it still exists.

The country's declaration of independence in 1991, supported by 90 percent of its 51 million people, was the Soviet empire's death blow and marked the end of 300 years of rule from Moscow.

Now the struggle is to reform and fully stabilize the economy. "The child is now six years old, and many are puzzled that it's still alive," Ivan Drach, president of the All-World Forum of Ukrainians, said at a conference last week marking the event.

The organization unites native Ukrainians and some 10 million

ethnic Ukrainians scattered across 46 countries.

Ukraine's 1,000-year-old history began with the mighty Kievan Rus empire but since then has mostly been spent under the rule of various invading powers.

Drach asked delegates to lay flowers at memorials to the poet Taras Shevchenko, who 150 years ago called on Ukrainians to break the chains of tsarist rule, and to the seven million Ukrainian victims of a 1930s famine during dictator Josef Stalin's rule.

"Ukraine has gone through difficult times," said President Leonid Kuchma in his independence day speech. "Now there must be intensive work done to solve Ukraine's internal problems."

The new Ukraine has yet to vanquish an economic crisis which

began the day it was born, leaving millions living below the poverty line and waiting for the cash-strapped government to deliver a wage backlog totaling \$3.6 billion.

But annual inflation was forecast at about 15 percent this year against a whopping 10,300 percent in 1993. The hryvnia, the currency last used in the Kievan Rus period and reintroduced last year, has remained rock solid.

"Certainly the transition from the kind of economy that existed in the Soviet Union has been difficult. No one is under any illusions that it has been easy," said US ambassador William Miller. "But there has been significant progress."

Kuchma, elected to a five-year term in 1994 on a platform of closer ties with Russia, but who subsequently aimed his policies in

favor of the West, noted Ukraine had signed treaties with Russia, Belarus, Poland and Romania.

The Russia deal in May settled the long-standing dispute over the Black Sea Fleet in Crimea. Ukraine went on to celebrate the first anniversary of its new constitution in June and followed up by signing a special charter with NATO in July.

"This is a transition period," said the president, who last year said Ukraine's biggest accomplishment was preservation of civil peace and inter-ethnic harmony.

One Western diplomat said the continuing economic crisis detracted from the anniversary and pointed to a general "rudderlessness" and insecurity on the part of Ukrainians whether independence was desirable.

"Because of the continuing economic pain and no prospect of rapid improvement — at least not that the leadership has been able to convey — the ordinary Ukrainian has not been able to benefit from foreign-policy gains, which have been numerous," he said.

The government under Kuchma, a Russian-speaker who learned Ukrainian after becoming president, has slowly been reversing Russification policies practiced under Soviet rule and introducing Ukrainian as the language of state and education.

Some 11 million ethnic Russians live in Ukraine, while Russia and Kazakhstan are home to some seven million Ukrainians. Other countries which boast large Ukrainian populations are Canada and the US. (Reuters)

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Leave the bank alone

The governor of the Bank of Israel should look into the eyes of the thousands of workers who will join the circle of unemployed in the coming months, admonishes Manufacturers Association head Dan Propper, in response to the bank's decision to raise interest rates by 0.7 percent. If anyone needs to do any soul-searching, however, it is Propper and others who are cynically waving the specter of unemployment for their own narrow interests, to the detriment of the economy as a whole.

The decision to raise interest rates, after dropping them over the past 14 months, is not a major surprise. Inflation rates for June and July were 1.2% and 1.0%, respectively, and the financial markets registered an expected annual inflation rate of about 10% — bumping the ceiling of the government's target range of 7% to 10%.

Bank officials, when accused of being blind to the anemic state of the economy, respond that the rate hike would have been higher if slow growth had not been taken into account. Even after this hike, real interest rates will be around 4% to 4.5%. This is lower than the 5% to 6% that the bank maintained in the last push to bring down inflation just a year ago.

If anything, it would be fairer to ask why the bank dropped interest rates by 1.2% — nearly twice the amount of the current increase — just 10 weeks ago. That drop occurred the day after finance minister Dan Meridor resigned, ostensibly because of a widening of the "diagonal" — the band in which the shekel exchange rate is allowed to fluctuate.

At the time, it was not entirely clear why the change in the exchange rate mechanism would justify such a large drop in interest rates. True, the May inflation rate was an encouraging 0.5%, leading many to expect that interest rates would drop. And since politicians, industrialists, and the public at large enjoy the immediate windfall provided by cheaper credit, no one bothered to ask too many questions as to why the bank dropped its rates so precipitously.

With hindsight, it certainly looks as if the central bank moved too dramatically in June, forcing a large about-face this week. Now that it has reversed course, it would be helpful if we were spared the sanctimony of industrialists such as Propper, who wrap themselves in an anti-unemployment flag.

In most countries, business leaders rightly

concentrate on their legitimate business interests, and do not try to pass themselves off as guardians of the economy in a battle royal with the central bank. In any case, the idea that the way to fight unemployment is to let inflation rampant is the worst sort of demagoguery. Business leaders should know better, and not give politicians like Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai a patina of economic respectability for their equally misguided attacks against Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel.

Judging from the industrialists' rhetoric, one might think that the Bank of Israel had been taken over by an evil king who derived pleasure from inflicting maximum economic pain on the people, while they were Robin Hoods defending the simple folk. In fact, while both the Bank of Israel and the industrialists should share the goal of what is in the best long-term interest of the economy, the bank is the body that is acting on that interest.

The Bank of Israel is the only body with both the power and the mandate to fight inflation, which is the most dangerous cancer that can strike a modern economy. Though the big businesses that Propper represents may think a bit of inflation will help keep payrolls in line while the costs can be passed on to the consumer, most small businesses do not have that luxury. Nor does he seem to care about those workers whose salaries are not linked to inflation, and who therefore must stand by and watch as their paychecks get eaten away by the rise in the cost of living.

Given the critical nature of the bank's role, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was right at first when he resisted criticizing the rate increase directly, though later on he expressed a hope that next month rates would drop. A better stance would be to reiterate his support for the central bank's independence in general and the necessity of fighting inflation in particular.

In this vein, Netanyahu should quash all the talk about establishing a board of governors for the Bank of Israel, which would introduce outsiders to the decision-making process. Few things could be more damaging to Israel's economic standing in the world than a cloud over the central bank's independence. If the bank does not fight inflation, no one will; its independence and professionalism must be beyond question and its mandate undiluted.



The scourge of terror

Care to go surfing on Internet? If you do, you may come across the following "interesting" item: "The Terrorist's Handbook," followed by more than 50 pages on how to make bombs. It tells you what ingredients you need, where to buy them and how to put them together in order to achieve the end-product, a terrorist bomb.

The product of a sick mind, you may say, and of course you are quite right. The trouble is that there are at least 30 such sites on the Internet and, much more to the point, there are many such sick minds out there in the world, planning and perpetrating terrorist acts.

Terrorism is, without a doubt, one of the major scourges of the civilized world. It is a disease threatening the well-being of nations and societies. The shedding of innocent people's blood for the sake of a political objective, for a religious cause or for any reason whatsoever is a crime that lies at the very apex of everything that is evil and demented.

We are, quite naturally, focused on terrorist acts occurring in our own back yard, but violence for the sake of political causes, religion or nationalism, or because of bigoted beliefs, happens all the time.

In Algeria hundreds of villagers — old men, women, children, even babies — die horrible deaths; in Lahore worshippers in a mosque are gunned down; in Rwanda refugees are massacred because they are of the wrong tribe; in Egypt religious fanatics kill in the name of a religion that teaches against killing; in Israel innocent people buying fruit and vegetables in their local market are blown to bits.

Terrorism has to be fought ruthlessly, without "ifs" and "buts," and the Palestinian Authority is making a terrible mistake by not understanding this basic rule. Indeed, when history judges Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian leadership, it will find that their

present equivocations with regard to those who foster terrorist acts will have been no less damaging to the Palestinian cause than the mistaken policy they followed when they backed Saddam Hussein during the Gulf War. Israel has been at the receiving end of more than its share of terrorist acts. Our intelligence and security services have, over the years, gained vast experience in dealing with terror organizations. This

Violence for the sake of political causes, religion or nationalism, or because of bigoted beliefs, happens all the time

experience is now being put to use in a novel and commendable manner: an academic institute, called the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism, has been established at the Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Business, Law and Technology, which was founded a few years ago by Professor Uriel Reichmann and which is now flourishing in its campus in Herzliya.

The reasoning behind the establishment of the institute combines academic study with the experience Israel has gained in this field. One of the projects now being completed at the institute is an ambitious Internet site which may help counter all that pernicious pro-terrorist material now appearing there. It will contain the fullest documentation on terrorism ever to have been compiled, and the institute believes it will become a

bible for organizations fighting terrorism all over the world.

TERRORISM as a crime is in a class of its own. It has, however, some distant cousins that, in their own way, encourage terrorist acts. Racism, bigotry, hatred, the belief that whatever your own people do is right and whatever "the others" do is wrong all come under that category.

People who adulate or make shrines for those who have killed innocent people are not much better than the terrorist who pulls the trigger or throws the bomb. The mass demonstrations in memory of the "Engineer" in Gaza, and the shrine for Baruch Goldstein in Kiryat Arba both must be considered abhorrent by every decent human being, whether Arab or Jew.

Racism or religious bigotry inevitably lead to confrontation, violence and terrorism and, as such, must be fought with all the means at the disposal of a civilized society.

The problem lies principally in the societies surrounding us. It is no accident that much of the violence occurring in the world today — in Algeria, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Egypt, Sudan, Lebanon — is taking place in countries in which Muslim fundamentalist fanaticism is the prime cause for the violence which has become so endemic in those societies. Compared to them Israel is a haven of peace and quiet.

Yet we have our own "distant cousins." With the oncoming opening of the new school year, now is a good time for our Ministry of Education to show that it knows its priorities: high on its list must be education against racism and bigotry, two evils which must be eradicated from our society.

The writer is a former director-general of the Foreign Ministry and chairman of the Israel Council of Foreign Relations.

Foreign currency freedom

The government has decided to push ahead and complete the process of foreign currency liberalization in time for the country's 50th anniversary celebrations next May. To this end, it announced last week a new package of deregulatory measures, improving the access of Israeli citizens and firms to foreign currency and expanding the uses to which they may put it.

Per se, of course, the abolition of foreign exchange controls is a good thing. It should have been done years ago — after all, the process of decontrol started again in the late 1980s (after the failed attempt of 1977) and was proceeding steadily until about 1992/93, after which it slowed down and then ground to a complete halt. Nevertheless, there is something unsettling about the current haste.

First of all, it's worth recalling why the process slowed and stopped. The official target was always full convertibility for the shekel, meaning that Israel's currency would trade freely on world markets and would be accessible to one and all for any purpose (trade or investment either from Israel to abroad or the converse). However, the Treasury line was always that this must be done very slowly and carefully, because of the omnipresent danger of a run on the currency: If all the barriers were removed in one fell swoop, too much money might surge overseas, triggering a crisis at home.

The Bank of Israel, for its part, scoffed at this fear, regarding it as out-dated dogma. Any outflows could be stemmed by use of the interest-rate weapon, over which it has control. But the central bank had its own bug-bear: The shekel could not be fully convertible until the Israeli "inflation environment" — meaning the kind of inflation rate extant here — was roughly on a par with that of Israel's main trading partners, namely

PINCHAS LANDAU

Western Europe and North America. This implied that Israeli inflation would have to be below 5%, and preferably below 3% — which always sounded fairly mesianic, so in practice the Bank of Israel seemed to be looking to delay full convertibility into the distant future.

THIS has been the story over the past five years, during which time

The central bank's Pauline conversion to almost immediate full convertibility is highly suspicious

the shekel could, and should, have been set free. Meantime, the country's foreign currency reserves have swollen to record levels of more than \$18 billion, which would suggest that the Treasury, at least, should be reassured that no sudden run on the reserves would bankrupt the country. On the other hand, Israel's inflation has been stuck stubbornly around 10%, whilst that of most developed economies has sunk ever lower — so presumably, the Bank of Israel is opposed to moving to full convertibility now.

Well, no, not exactly. In fact, not at all. The central bank is suddenly all gung ho to realize the prime minister's dream of blowing away the panoply of restraints that still surround the shekel. The Treasury, on the other hand, is distinctly unenthusiastic, and keeps mumbling about the dangers involved.

Remarkably enough — incredibly, almost — the Treasury may have a point. The Bank of Israel's Pauline conversion to an almost immediate move to full convert-

ibility is highly suspicious. Maybe it just wants to keep the prime minister happy and/or blunt the edge of his growing concern over the bank's interest rate policy. Perhaps the motive is short-term: to generate additional sources of demand for foreign currency from within Israel (for overseas investments, for example), thereby offsetting the ongoing inflow of foreign currency which has been pushing the shekel's value up and driving exporters mad (and local industry towards bankruptcy, which is worse).

Whatever the central bank's motive, the result is that Israelis are going to be granted much greater freedom of action vis-à-vis foreign currency trading and investment.

This is a milestone for the economy as a whole, and for the financial sector in particular: The opportunity of diverting domestic savings overseas rewrites the script for Israeli financial institutions. However, since they have failed to rehearse for this new and larger role, they are liable to find themselves upstaged by foreign rivals, who will quickly muscle in on the potentially significant amount of money available.

But in any longer view, that process of investment diversification and the more professional money management it demands, is a boon to the economy. The risk in deregulating the foreign exchange market is that of instability, perhaps born of panic. But, since this can only be generated by popular disenchantment with the government's own policies, empowering savers and investors with the means to punish irresponsible policies is probably at least as good a check and balance as hoping that ministers and bureaucrats get it right by themselves.

The writer is a journalist and economic commentator.

Mir vs. Mars

COREY S. POWELL

Forget the chess match of Garry Kasparov vs. IBM's Deep Blue. A much more interesting battle between man and machine is playing out in today's media. In one corner is the Mars Pathfinder and its roving companion, Sojourner, which slowly is poking and prodding about on the Red Planet. And in the other, the Mir, Russia's accident-prone space station, retreading the same orbit just above Earth every 92 minutes.

No contest. For better and (largely) for ill, the victory goes solidly to the humans, who handily have trounced Pathfinder on the evening news and on front pages.

Remember Pathfinder? When it reached the Martian surface July 4, the intrepid spacecraft rightly was lauded as a triumph of a revitalized space-exploration program. For a few days, the world watched rapt as this brave bag of bolts picked its way across the Martian landscape, periodically stopping to bombard the rusted rocks with gamma rays to sniff out their composition. The official Pathfinder Web site logged 80 million hits in one day.

Pathfinder's sensors are still monitoring the chilly Martian winds; Sojourner continues to explore the rocks given fanciful names like Yogi and Barnacle Bill by the scientists back home. But you can be forgiven if you don't know that, because the dispatches from Mars have been thoroughly displaced by tales of the latest misadventures aboard Russia's space station.

The story really begins 11 years ago, when Mir entered orbit as one of the last great bits of Cold War propaganda. But those grand days are long past; Mir's raison d'être has grown much more complicated after communism. Russian technological pride is still a prime motivation. For the United States, however, Mir is many other things: a cheap train-

A space station is little more than a man in a can

ing ground for astronauts ultimately destined for the shiny new international space station; a ready symbol of East-West cooperation; a way to keep former Soviet rocket technology out of the hands of unfriendly nations. In short, Mir is about everything except its ostensible purpose: the human exploration of space.

Which brings us to Mir's latest and most ignoble function, a stage for space tragicomedy. By now, it is hard not to be aware of the staccato sequence of odd and sometimes pathetic mishaps that have struck the Russian space station this year. What is interesting is not so much why these problems have occurred as why they are now the cause of such fascination.

First and foremost, people in space are more interesting than robots in space. Testy exchanges between Russian astronauts and imperious flight controllers on Earth qualify as solid melodrama; a communication breakdown that requires rebooting Pathfinder's computer does not.

In the current scheme, the Russians are our junior, somewhat backward partners and we can afford to laugh a little. Unfortunately, the smirks and sad shaking of the head tend to distract from the larger lessons of Pathfinder vs. Mir. From its inception, NASA has been keenly aware of the enormous public-relations advantage that manned missions have over unmanned ones. But Mir's woes illustrate how easily that edge can turn against you. If there are mortalities, the Russian and the American space programs could be severely shaken.

Construction of the international space station is slated to begin next year. It will be far larger, more sophisticated and (one hopes) less trouble-prone than Mir, but it shares one crucial detail: It has no clearly defined mission other than to put humans into orbit around Earth. Although it gives the space shuttle some place to go, the station itself merely flies around in lonely circles. Without a destination and a dream, a space station is little more than a man in a can.

It need not be that way. One of the most fundamental aspects of life is its relentless pursuit of new environmental niches to colonize. An overarching vision of human exploration of space would transform melodrama into high drama. The media triumph of the Mir saga can be more than a crude victory of voyeurism over intellectualism. It could serve as a reminder that the mind and the spirit need to expand together.

(Los Angeles Times)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NOT SO FINE WINES

Sir, — Ever since first reading Daniel Rogov's gourmandizing (not gourmet) ode to the pagan deities of food and wine, usually pointedly emphasizing the delights of food forbidden to Jews, I have wanted to write in protest. However, just the other day, one of your readers stole my thunder.

Then this morning (August 21), Mr. Rogov offered another of his "expert" evaluations of a selection of French wines available in Israel (probably only in Herzliya Pituah). His euphoric but, unfortunately, repetitive evaluations of a selection of French Burgundies and Bordeaux, using descriptive terms which he employs willy-nilly, in every one of his articles (e.g., "hints of blackberries, currants, plums, pineapple, cherries, not to forget

tabacco") finally brought me to my word processor. Including in the same evaluations but without differentiating between the St. Juliens and Medocs and Sauternes among the Bordeaux, nor between a Gueyrey-Chamberlain and what appears to be a vin ordinaire, is simply ridiculous and possibly misleading.

But my main objection to Mr. Rogov's pieces is not so much their pretentiousness, but rather their inappropriateness for most Israeli readers. At a time when we are struggling with rising unemployment, a growing portion of our population living below the poverty line, insufficient funds for education for everyone, and a need to reduce the balance of payments deficit, and decrease our dependence on foreign assistance,

writing of wines costing about NIS 500 a bottle is insensitive, bordering on the profane.

It seems that Daniel Rogov has never heard of what economist, Gunnar Myrdal in the 30s called "conspicuous consumption." The time has come for the editorial board of the Post to take into consideration not only the "have very muchers" among its readers, but also, the "fighting to keep their heads above water" English-speaking immigrants who came to build a Jewish and Zionist society and nation which would materialize those values which brought our country about.

PROF. RICHARD D. ROSENBERG

Haifa.

WAKE UP

Sir, — It is beyond my comprehension how the present Israeli government can even think about giving permission to Arafat to build an airport and seaport in Gaza.

In view of the Mahaneh Yehuda disaster, are our liberal Jews bent on committing suicide? There are too many illegal weapons in the hands of the PLO and Hamas, but with their own airport and seaport, Arafat could bring in all sorts of heavy weapons as well as sneaking in more terrorists from outside Israel.

The time has come for all Jews to wake up to their national danger and unite as one people. United we will stand, divided we will, G-d forbid, fail!!!

RUTH NUSSBACHER

New York.

STOP STILETTOS

Sir, — Usually I enjoy Greer Fay Cashman's fashion articles. She knows her stuff and it's a pleasure to read what she writes. But I'm sorry to say that I got a nasty shock from her article about stiletto-heeled shoes (Aug. 21). The article stressed their "femininity" and fashion value, but did not include even the slightest cautionary note about what heels of such height do to the human body.

High-heeled shoes push the body forward and put one's entire weight on the ball of the foot, which is not constructed to bear it. The body is forced into an abnormal position which causes discomfort and injury to

the feet, ankles, calf muscles, knees, spine, and neck, and the wearer cannot move naturally. She will suffer from — among other things — abnormal contraction of the calf muscle and Achilles tendon, bunions, backaches, neckaches, and headaches. As a woman, I wince when I see stiletto-heeled shoes advertised, or see anyone wearing them in the street. It's high time stiletto heels went the way of corsets and foot-binding. With all the damage and pain they cause, there is nothing beautiful or feminine about them.

RACHEL JASKOW

Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 years ago: On August 27, 1937, The Palestine Post reported a new wave of anti-Jewish terror which broke out in the Polish Bialystok District, resulting in at least 50 Jews being injured, several of them seriously.

50 years ago: On August 27, 1947, The Palestine Post reported tension in Egypt. The UN Security Council debated the Egyptian request to evacuate

British troops from their country. In their final draft, members of the UN Special Committee on Palestine were reported to opt for the Partition scheme with some kind of confederation.

In Jerusalem Yehoram Krupelnik and Mordechai Sofer were remanded on three capital charges for having placed a mine under the Cairo-Haifa train on August 9, 1947, and for having arms and "discharging them at

members of His Majesty Forces."

25 years ago: On August 27, 1972, The Jerusalem Post reported that the 20th Olympic Games opened with rich pageant in Munich. Israel received one of the loudest and longest cheers of the 122 nations taking part in the opening ceremony.

Alexander Zvielli

First-day jitters

Two school psychologists tell Aryeh Dean Cohen how parents can help their children – and themselves – through those first crucial days of school or kindergarten

Some of them cry. Some get weak in the knees. Others fly into fits of hysterics. Yes, the first day of school isn't easy on parents of youngsters starting kindergarten or first grade.

There's the dreaded moment you say good-bye, your child clawing at your shoes, and the gnawing uncertainty about just what your child means when every time you ask him what he did at school today, he says: "Nothing."

But you don't have to dread your first close encounter with the school system. According to school psychologists Betty and Simcha Dershowitz, proper preparation, knowing your child and making yourself available are key elements to a smooth transition.

Preparation is everything – from making sure your child's school bag is packed the night before school starts to describing what school's going to be all about.

"It's important for parents to speak to their children beforehand about what it's going to be like, and about how to deal with certain situations. It's important for children to know who's going with them," says Betty, a school psychologist for the Beit Shimon Municipality and brother of four, including a daughter who's entering third grade. "Make sure that one of you goes along with them on the first day."

"But you should also talk about what they might be afraid of. Sometimes children who are starting school for the first time are afraid there are going to be older kids who might hurt them, and

aren't sure what to do in such a case. They might be concerned about what will happen if school is too hard for them."

Simcha, who is director of the Jordan Valley Regional Council's School Psychology Clinic and Developmental Unit, says separation anxiety is also a major problem, at least initially.

"Some youngsters have problems adjusting to any new place," he explains, "and this is another separation, another new start."

The first few days should be handled carefully, Betty says. "I believe more in staying with children and doing it gradually: leaving them for half an hour, and then coming back, and the next day leaving them a little longer." Most schools and kindergartens have shorter hours the first few days expressly for this reason.

Some kindergarten and first-grade teachers have a policy of shooing parents out the door, but Betty disagrees with this.

"One shouldn't leave children when they're crying or upset, or tell them that you're not going, and then suddenly disappear. It's important to

tell them: 'I'm going, and then I'm coming back.'"

It's important to periodically go over the day's schedule with your child, says Simcha. "This is so you both have some structure in your minds. Go over what's going to be: you'll have recess at this hour, I'll pick you up at this time."

Betty recommends talking about first-day experiences with older siblings, who can allay some fears. There are also children's books on the subject that parents can read with their youngsters. She also suggests making sure you show your child where everything is in his or her new environment: the bathroom, where one can get a drink, etc.

ONCE YOU'VE made it past the first week, watch your children for some tell-tale signs of potential problems.

"If you see a very big change in their whole behavior or mood, if they stop eating, for example, then you should check it out," says Betty.

There are more subtle signs as well. "The child suddenly starts saying: 'My stomach hurts, my head hurts, I'm not feeling well.' The

body talks, and you have to pay attention to it," says Simcha.

However, he also cautions about reacting too soon. "First, there's a general letdown in a child after the first few days of school. There's a tremendous build-up beforehand, with everyone telling the child that he's a big kid now, etc. So keep in mind that this is a natural process in the child, and you have to give it some time. If things don't pick up again, it's worth looking into where the difficulties are."

The first place to go in most schools is the school guidance counselor (yo'etz or yo'etzet). While some parents believe in marching into the principal's office to take up any problem, the Dershowitzs both counsel going to the guidance counselor first, since he or she will in any case likely be involved in making whatever change is deemed necessary.

However, parents should also realize that during the first week of school, principals and school staff often feel "like they're standing with their finger in the dike," as Simcha describes it, overwhelmed with requests for transfers for very petty reasons.

Sometimes a parent can help a child overcome problems without intervening personally.

"Most processes of adjustment take some time, even good things," says Simcha. "So a certain amount of stress and difficulty should be expected. But you can tell your child: 'I know you're a clever person, remember how well you did in kindergarten, etc. Well, this is a whole new game, and you have to find your place, and it's not easy, and will take time, and we're here to help you if you need us.'"

"Then you need to keep an eye on what kind of process is happening. In an adjustment cycle like that, the child will usually summon up his strengths and try to adjust, and in most cases, he'll succeed." Intervening too soon, he says, sends the message that "I don't think you can do it."

Parents should also try to listen to what children talk about their school experiences, the Dershowitzs say.

"Begin by asking your child to describe his or her day to you," says Simcha. "Ask: 'What did you do today? Who did you meet? How's your teacher? Find opportunities to do things together to give the child a chance to talk. Try to spend extra time with the child the first week.'"

As for the dreaded H word – homework – the Dershowitzs say the amount of parental involvement depends on your child. "If a child needs help or asks for help, you should give a reasonable amount,



Preparation is everything – from making sure your child's school bag is packed the night before school starts to describing what school's going to be all about. (Elaine Kitchcock)

without the child developing dependence on the parent," says Simcha. "But try to make sure children understand homework is their responsibility toward the teacher and the class."

Don't let homework become a home-wrecker, either. "Homework can also have a detrimental effect on the relationship between parent and child, especially if you end up sitting for hours together, with you nagging the child to do it. You need to find a way for children to be able to do some of the homework on their own," says Betty.

Simcha warns it's important to avoid having homework become a new, problematic element in the parent-child relationship.

"If the relationship is getting complicated, it's quite possible that there is something about the interactions between [parent and child] which is

not conducive to good work, or some objective difficulty that hasn't been diagnosed yet," he says. "It's important to find out what that difficulty is."

There are also children who use homework as "a way of catching a parent's attention," says Betty. Stretching their homework out all night ensures they have your attention, she says. Instead, try making sure they get attention in other ways.

IT'S ALSO important for children to realize that even if they have difficulty in school, they're still okay.

"It's important for a parent to support them and tell them that whatever they manage, it's okay, or find ways to deal with not managing," says Betty.

Simcha suggests talking to your children about your own school days, if they were problematic,

explain that those same problems are not necessarily going to happen to your children. Ultimately, parents who feel comfortable about their child's first days in school will convey that feeling to their children.

"I think children can sense what's going on inside their parents, whether their parents are letting them grow up and go on," says Betty. "Sometimes we have cases where parents want to keep their children behind another year in kindergarten, because the parents aren't ready to let the child grow up into that stage."

At least at the beginning, be home when your kids come home so you can hear how their days were, she advises. But most of all: "Take a deep breath and let the child fly," she says. Let him or her feel like they're going to succeed, and it's going to be a positive experience."



Don't leave children when they're crying or upset. Say 'I'm going – and then I'm coming back.' (R. Fried)

PARENTING

Scripts to ease your role as parent

By RUTH MASON

How To Talk So Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk is one of my favorite books on child-rearing.

It's fun to read, practical and, if you can apply its principles, extremely helpful to both parents and children.

The book was written by Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish, who attended Dr. Chaim Ginott's parenting workshops for five years. Ginott, a noted child psychologist, was the author of the best-selling *Between Parent and Child* (published in 1956) and stressed good communication as the key to solving

child-rearing problems. Faber and Mazlish tell about their experience in Ginott's workshops in their first book, *Liberated Parents, Liberated Children*, which is also a very interesting read.

In *How To Talk*, the authors go a step further and very concretely describe how we parents can change our behavior so that our kids will change theirs. Each chapter ends with a summarizing cartoon and a list that can be posted on the fridge for a quick reminder.

Here are some tips from the book:

When responding to a child's distress:

Instead of half-listening, give him your full attention – i.e., turn

off the TV, put down the paper, or turn away from that sink full of dishes and really listen.

Instead of asking questions or giving advice ("Somebody stole my new red pencil!" "Are you sure you didn't lose it?" or "What do you expect when you leave things lying around?"), acknowledge your child's feeling with a simple word such as "Oh," or "I see." This gives your child the space to figure out the problem for herself.

Instead of denying his feelings, name them. Your child comes up to you crying and says, "My hamster died." Instead of saying, "Don't cry, we'll get you another one," try saying something like "Losing a pet can hurt." Your child then feels

heard and understood and has a chance to work through his feelings.

When you want to engage your child's cooperation:

Instead of blaming or commanding, describe the problem. Instead of "Why do you always leave your wet towel on my bed?" try "The towel on my bed is getting my sheets wet." Instead of "Get off the phone this instant!" try "Thalia, I need to make a phone call now."

Instead of accusing or insulting, give information. Rather than saying "I told you a hundred times not to leave the milk out!" try "Milk gets spoiled when it's not in the refrigerator." Rather than "It would never occur to you to help me with

the housework, would it?" try "It would really be helpful if the table were set for dinner now." Instead of telling your child what's wrong with him, describe your own feelings. Rather than, "You are rude! You always interrupt," try "I feel so frustrated when I start to say something and you interrupt."

Alternatives to punishment: Your child is acting wild in the supermarket. He's running down the aisles, grabbing food. You know the scene. Instead of threatening ("If you run down the aisle again, I won't buy you a cookie" or taking away a privilege "You're acting like a wild animal! No TV for you tonight," try one or more of the following: Point out a way to be

helpful. "It would be helpful if you picked out three big lemons for us." Express strong disapproval: "I don't like what's going on! It's disturbing to shoppers when children run in the aisles." Give a choice. "Leor, no running. Here are your choices: You can walk or you can sit in the cart. You decide." And if he keeps running, pick him up and say, "I see you decided to sit in the cart."

Let the child experience the consequences of his behavior without lecturing or moralizing. Keep your tone and expression friendly. Here's an imaginary conversation that takes place the day after the supermarket incident: "Mommy, where are you going?"

"Shopping." "I want to go too." "Not today." "Why not?" "You tell me why." "Because I ran around in the store?" "You guessed it." "I'm sorry. Give me another chance!" "There'll be plenty of other chances. Today, I'm going by myself."

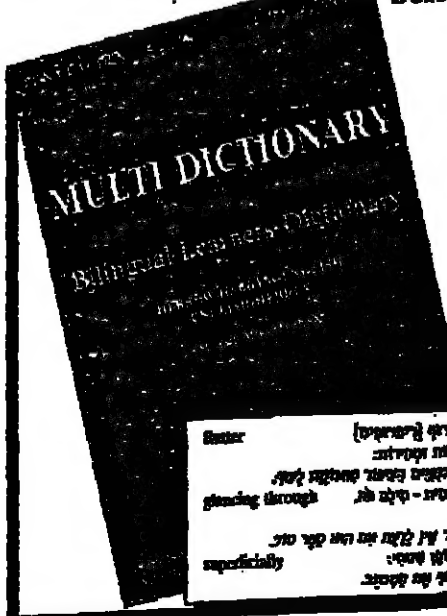
These examples and many others in the book are not meant to be scripts but illustrations of a different way of doing things. Don't get overwhelmed by trying to do it all at once.

Choose one area or skill – such as acknowledging your child's feelings – and go with it for a week. See what happens. And if you'd like to share the results, please write and let us know!

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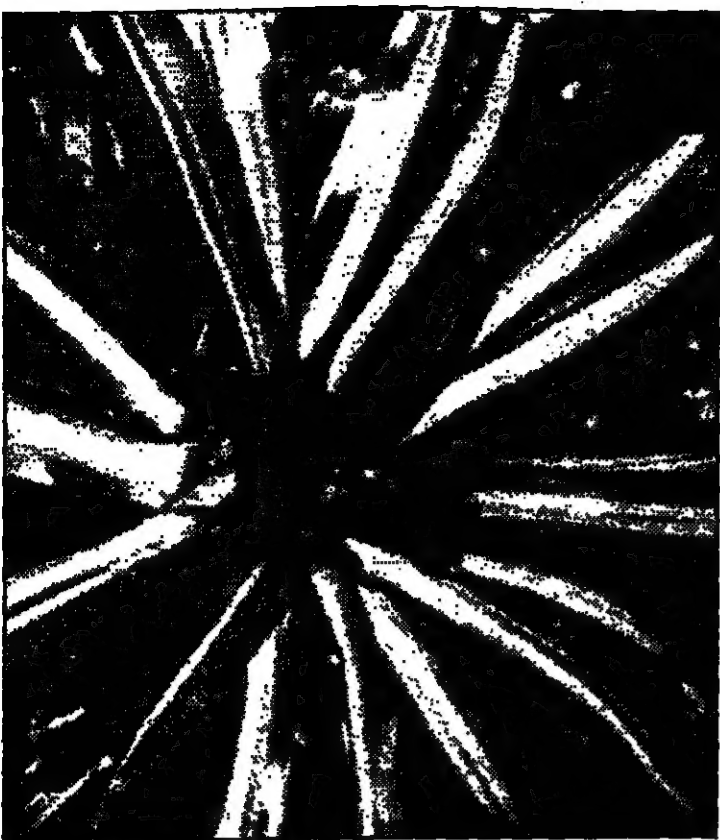
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GARDENER'S CORNER

Extra terrestrials for the home



Blushing bromeliad

Tip of the week

If your young plant has reached the flowering stage but is shy to blossom, what can you do? Professional growers induce flowering by applying ethylene gas. The trick for the home gardener (who does not want to asphyxiate the family)

is to place the plant in a large cardboard box with two rotting apples. Cover the box with clear plastic wrap and place in a light spot for up to 10 days. Then return the plant to its normal situation and within a few weeks, it should flower.

By BAT SHEVA MINK and DAVID BRAUNER

If a committee had designed the camel and worked overtime, what would it have come up with in the plant kingdom? It would have to be a plant that's exotic, colorful, easy to care for, and one rarely troubled by pests and diseases. In short, it's a bromeliad.

The bromeliads, named after Swedish botanist Olaf Bromel (1639-1705), number about 2,000 species, and more are being discovered every year. Among the members of this versatile family are the pineapple, the ubiquitous tree-growing Spanish moss (Spanish beard), and the giant puya plant of the Andes Mountains, which reaches 12 meters high.

All bromeliads, with the exception of West African Pitcairnia members, are native to the Americas. In the wild, they grow happily in deserts and rain forests, between sea level and altitudes of over 4,000 m. Many species, such as orchids, grow on high tree branches. Unlike orchids, bromeliads are much better adapted to growing in our homes.

The bromeliad family, generally distinguished by a rosette of spiny leaves and a flowering spike or stemmed flower head, divides into three groups. The epiphytes grow on trees, dry cliffs, and even telephone lines. Also known as "air plants," they are not parasites and therefore derive no sustenance from their hosts.

The terrestrials grow on the ground. They are generally low-growing with no distinct stem, and often have showy flowers and decorative, leatherlike, saw-edged leaves.

The third group are the "rock dwellers," or saxicolous plants. Like the terrestrials, spiny leaves radiate from a central point which forms a

"vase" to hold rainwater. In nature, the vase is a home to animal life from protozoa to frogs. Malarial mosquitoes also commonly breed in the plant water.

Here are some gorgeous bromeliads you might want to grow.

The urn plant (*Aechmea fasciata*) has very handsome, narrow silver-and-green-banded leaves and a bright, rose-pink, cone-shaped flower head that can last up to five months.

Queen's tears (*Billbergia nutans*) is an unusual terrestrial with grass-like silvery green leaves and drooping pink flower heads. It is very easy to grow, even in the garden, provided some of the harsh sunlight is filtered out by trees and large plants.

The blushing bromeliad (*Neoregelia caroliniae tricolor*) features a splash of outer green leaves centered with yellow or white, and inner leaves painted pinkish-red. The flower head, which stays inside the leafy rosette, is bright red with a violet core.

The pineapple (*Ananas comosus*) is another terrestrial grown primarily for its famous fruit. They may only be raised in warmer regions like the Jordan Valley and Coastal Plain, where winter temperatures do not go below 13°C.

The earth star, or starfish plant (*Cryptanthus*), makes an excellent leafy house plant. The leaves are crinkled and often mottled or striped and come in a wide array of colors including rose, silver, green, chartreuse, gray, copper, white and red, or a combination of these.

The orange star (*Guzmania berterianae*) is a tall plant with a brilliant red flower head and yellow flower center. The sword-shaped leaves are light green or wine red. All *Guzmanias* are epiphytes and flower in spring or winter.

Caring for your bromeliads

Water: Keep the watering can covered. Distilled or bottled water is recommended. The compost only has to be kept moist because these plants have undeveloped root systems.

Nourishment: Pour a liquid feed at half-strength into the watering can once a month when the plant is in active growth.

Soil: Bromeliads prefer a free-draining mixture of peat moss, ground charcoal, and leaf mold, if available.

Light: Situate the plants in full light but avoid direct sunlight. The stiffer and stouter the leaves, the more light and water deficit the plant can tolerate.

Pests and Disease: If troubled by scale insects or mealy bugs, spray the plant with an insecticide or apply rubbing alcohol with a cotton swab.

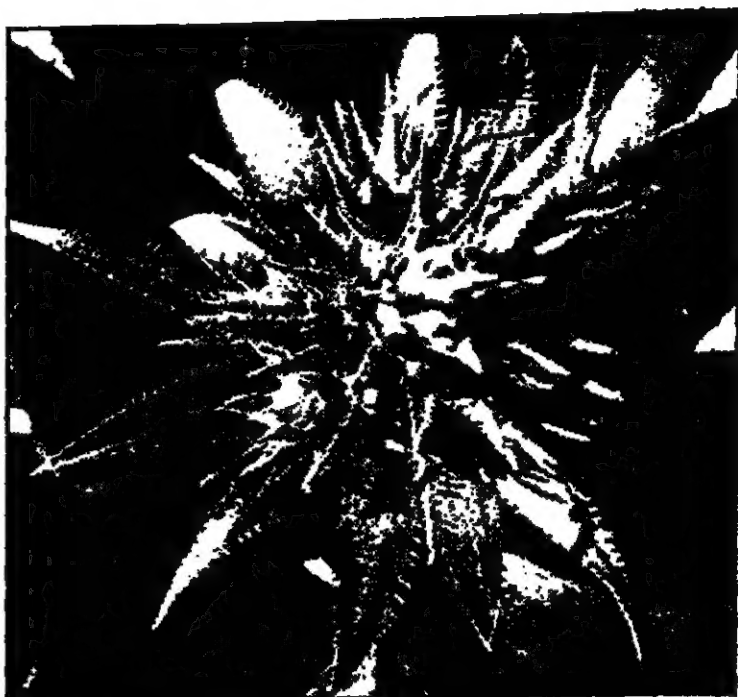
Bromeliads are easily propagated after flowering when the central rosette has died and offsets, or side shoots, continue to grow. When the offsets are about 15 cm. high, they can be detached from the parent plant and potted. Small clay pots and temperatures between 21-27°C are recommended. The plant crown must not be buried, otherwise it will rot. Once established, the plants can be moved to lighter, cooler conditions.

Batsheva Mink is curator of the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens, Hebrew University, Givat Ram. David Brauner writes the Jerusalem Post's Thursday On Camera column and is a gardening enthusiast.

Your gardening questions and comments are welcome. Contact Batsheva Mink, P.O.B. 3943, Jerusalem 91039, or David Brauner, e-mail: morris@ashur.cc.hu.ac.il



Guzmania sanguinea



Urn plant

HEADS 'N' TAILS



Bowed over: "Don't tell me what cats will or will not do. They do as they damn well please!" (zoologist and Nobel laureate Nikolas Tinbergen)

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL

I recently read a book in which the author gave all sorts of advice about how to teach your cat to behave. I read it with interest but also much amusement, because half a century of cat keeping has convinced me that Nobel laureate Nikolas Tinbergen, the zoologist and animal behaviorist, was so right when he said, "Don't tell me what cats will or will not do." "They do as they damn well please!"

This doesn't mean that cats cannot learn; they simply learn the things they choose to learn. After several years of trying to get my favorite cat to sleep at the foot of the bed and not curl around my shoulder and play with my hair, I finally succeeded. She didn't like being shoved away, so she learned. She learned to stay at the foot of the bed - until she was sure I was sound asleep. It wasn't that she didn't get the message; she just chose her own way of complying, one that would avoid unpleasantness while allowing her to continue to do just as she pleased.

Many people ask me if cats are

less intelligent than dogs. The answer is that while we have no accurate way of estimating animal intelligence, it seems to me, and to most people who are well acquainted with both species, that cats are just as intelligent as dogs. They're simply different. Both species live in close proximity to humans, but they are essentially very different animals. To understand this, we must take a look at their most basic, natural behavioral patterns because that is where the principal difference lies.

Dogs are an offshoot of the canids, and their origins date back to long ago, when they separated from wolves. They retained certain wolf-like characteristics but abandoned others.

One characteristic they retained was the tendency to live in packs and to adhere to a hierarchy of obedience to the leader, usually the strongest member of the pack. Dogs do not have to think twice about obeying anyone they see as the superior in their pack, even if that "top dog" happens to be a human. Like all pack animals, dogs want

and need the approval of those around them. Not so the cat.

Kipling's phrase "the cat that walks alone" is very accurate. Like all solitary animals, cats are accustomed to deciding for themselves. They have no instinctive behavioral pattern that makes them obedient to other cats or to humans. This is why all our most easily domesticated animals are ones that live in packs or herds and adhere instinctively to the rules of herd or pack behavior. This includes cows, sheep, goats, horses, swine and, of course, dogs.

There was a time when most experts were certain that chimpanzees were far more intelligent than orangutans because it was so easy to teach chimps all sorts of things, while it was extremely difficult to get an orangutan to absorb a lesson. But the real difference lay not in intelligence, but in motivation. The group-dwelling chimpanzee is most anxious for the approval of others, while the solitary-living orangutan simply couldn't care less. Again, it's all a matter of genes.

I am certain that it won't be long

before someone isolates the gene for adherence to pack discipline. After all, they've already found the one responsible for herding instinct in dogs and another for attention span. So it really has nothing to do with the basic intelligence of the animal. Each simply displays this intelligence in different ways. And when it comes to the raw intelligence needed for survival, it seems that the cat is even better endowed than the dog.

But a cat is not a dog, and it is doubtful that you can teach it many tricks. Cats tend, as Tinbergen said, to do as they please. But that is part of what makes a cat such a wonderful animal. Cats have a fierce independence and a devotion to their own well-being that sets them apart from other animals. We can't do much in the way of training them, but they are one of the world's outstanding experts at training us to fulfill their needs - and to do it promptly if we want any peace.

Tinbergen said something else that expressed his great admiration for the species. "If I were the Almighty and wanted to make an animal," he said, "I'd make a cat."

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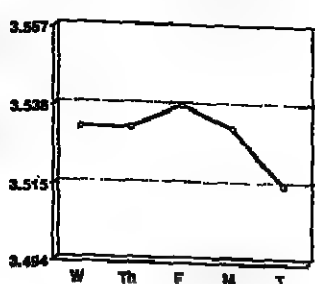
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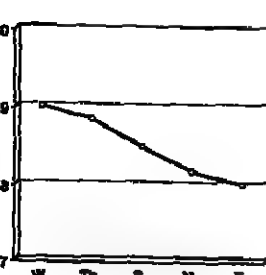
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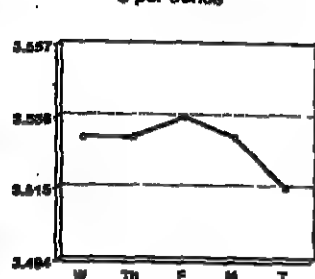
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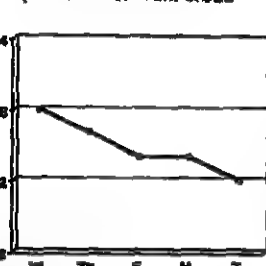
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Computer services industry to hit \$1.3b.

Israel's computer services industry will be a \$1.3 billion market by the year 2000, according to a study conducted by International Data Corporation. In 1996, the market, which is growing at an annual rate of 18%, totalled \$621m. The research was based on interviews with computer services providers and users. *Jennifer Friedlin*

Venture capital funds to have \$700m. in '97

Venture capital funds will have \$700 million for investing in high-tech companies this year, a survey conducted by Business Data Israel has found. By the end of the year, venture capital funds are expected to raise about \$400m., in addition to the \$300m. currently in the funds' coffers. Venture capital funds have invested in 12 companies that went public in the US in 1996, and in 10 companies that were sold to foreign firms. There are currently 2,000 high-tech firms in Israel, the study said, and 240 new ones were established in 1996. Between 1992 and 1996, venture capital funds raised \$1.5 billion. Venture capital investments in start-up companies range between \$1m. and \$5m. *Jennifer Friedlin*

After sharp increase in interest rates:

PM may support proposal to limit Frenkel's power

By JAY BUSHINSKY and Jerusalem Post Staff

TOKYO - Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu may be coming to support a proposal for the establishment of a board of governors at the Bank of Israel, sources in his entourage here said yesterday.

However, the premier avoided openly confronting bank governor Jacob Frenkel, following the latter's decision Monday to raise interest rates by a higher-than-expected 70 basis points.

The board-of-governors proposal, which has been circulating in various forms for

about two years, is aimed at limiting the governor's power to set monetary policy. Under today's system, the governor decides monetary policy as the superior partner in a group of directors, all of whom are his personal appointees. The proposals suggest adding various external figures to the decision-making process, ranging from economists to industrialists.

"I am not angry at the governor," said Netanyahu. "I am waiting to see what the decision will be next month. It's not something you can judge based on one incident."

The premier did, however, concede that

"in order to bring about economic growth, one must generally see to it that interest rates don't go higher than is necessary in order to meet inflation targets."

Netanyahu had been a staunch supporter of Frenkel's tight monetary policies - a stance which played a role in his parting company with former finance minister Dan Meridor in June.

Since then, however, the economic slowdown has worsened, with first-half unemployment climbing to 7.6% and growth plummeting to 2%, while inflation stubbornly hovers just above 10%.

"I will be happy if the inflation rate responds, so we will be able to lower the interest rate," said Netanyahu.

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, who has joined Netanyahu for his trip to the Far East, added that the government "sets its economic policy on August 13th, and one month does not determine a trend. There has to be a context of several months."

Frenkel's surprising decision Monday followed two relatively sharp increases in the Consumer Price Index, which rose 1% for July and by 1.1% in June.



Automated goal

Children play soccer with Game Robots, which were unveiled by Sony to the public for the first time at the 15th International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence, an annual meeting where scientists put on display the latest in robot technology, in Nagoya, Japan yesterday.

(Reuters)

'Long-distance registration was flawed'

By JUDY SEGEL

The three overseas phone call providers will have to start registering subscribers all over again with a form to be filled in and mailed back, regulators said yesterday.

The Communications Ministry stated that callers who accessed the companies' services orally since early July, or in writing before August 25 could not be regarded as official subscribers to a single company.

Those who fill out a form after August 25 - with even one company - will be able to dial 00 and 188 and be hooked up automatically to the provider they chose.

Until now, everyone who has called 00 or 188 was connected to Bezeq International (BI), which held the monopoly for overseas calls.

Cellular phone users, too, will have to fill in a form if they want to get the automatic dialup connection and enjoy the new rates. All callers may continue to contact the three companies by dialing the prefix 012 (Golden Lines), 013 (Barak) or 014 (BI), in addition to 00 and 188.

The ministry said the three companies can design the forms as they wish, as long as they contain all the details required by the ministry. Publicity material must not be included as part of the form itself, the ministry said.

The two new companies have been complaining about "unfair competition" from BI, arguing that it has been allowed to undercut the rates Barak and Golden Lines were permitted to charge according to the ministry tender. But the ministry says the Barak and Golden Lines consortia knew all the conditions when applying to the tender. The market should soon stabilize, the ministry adds, and the volume of calls has grown to benefit all three providers.

AT&T, Westinghouse officials here next month

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Senior executives from AT&T and CBS Westinghouse will be part of a delegation arriving in Israel on September 7 for a two-day visit, said Edgar Fulton, commercial counselor at the US Embassy in Tel Aviv.

Representatives from ITDN, Sunwise Technologies, GE Medical and CMS Energy will also be among the visitors, who will be led by Judith Barnett, the US Commerce Department's deputy assistant secretary for Africa and the Near East.

While in Israel, the delegates will meet with Communications Minister Limor Livnat, Minister of Industry and Trade Natan Shalansky and several undisclosed Israeli companies.

CBS Westinghouse is expected to explore participating in a bid to establish a third television network.

The two-fold purpose of the trip is to increase US exports to Israel and to promote business relationships between Israel and other Arab countries, Fulton said.

"We see this visit as very, very significant because we are going to try to establish regional trade activities regardless of political ups and downs," he said.

After leaving Israel, the delegation will continue to Morocco and Tunisia. All the firms participating in the tour have expressed an interest in doing business in the Israeli and Arab markets, said Fulton. "We have chosen companies that consider the Middle East a single region," the commercial counselor said.

Computer giants 'boot up' lobbying, political contributions

By HEATHER FLEMING

WASHINGTON, (Bloomberg) - The computer industry, once a small player on the Washington political scene, is greatly increasing its contributions to political candidates as the number of issues it faces on Capitol Hill grows.

In the 1995-96 election cycle, the computer industry gave \$7.3 million to political action committees, to the major political parties and to federal candidates, according to a study by the Center for Responsive Politics, a nonpartisan group that analyzes campaign spending and the influence of money on politics. Computer industry donations in the 1995-96 election cycle were 52% higher than in the last presidential election cycle in 1991-92.

"While computer companies have traditionally never been major Washington players, they are increasing their political presence," the report says. They have ample reason to get involved because "there are almost a dozen bills in the House and Senate that could affect the industry's bottom line."

In addition to its campaign contributions, the industry spent \$19.9 million on lobbying expenses in 1996, the study said.

International Business Machines spent the most on lobbying, \$4.9 million, followed by Texas Instruments, \$3.6 million, Electronic Data Systems, \$1.8 million; Microsoft, \$1.1 million; and Netscape Communications, \$860,000.

"IBM does not contribute to any campaigns," but it does spend money on lobbying, said spokesman Fred McNeese. "We wanted our voice heard."

One of the most contentious issues before Congress this year is export controls on hard-to-break computer encryption codes. The Clinton administration, citing national security, wants the industry to provide access to a decoding device. The industry says foreign governments don't impose such restrictions, putting U.S. companies at a competitive disadvantage.

Several bills are moving through both the House and Senate that would relax the export controls. Another controversial measure is the World Intellectual Property Organization treaty on copyright protection for the Internet. Proposed legislation includes a provision that forbids the manufacture of most devices designed to circumvent encryption technology. Computer hardware companies say they're concerned this

provision is too strong because some products that have other legal uses can be used to bypass encryption technology.

The industry is also backing legislation that would prohibit taxes on Internet commerce. It says taxation would stifle development of new technologies.

Top House recipients of the computer industry's money in the 1995-96 election cycle were: California Republican Tom Campbell, Virginia Republican Thomas Davis, Seattle Republican Rick White, Massachusetts Democrat Joseph Kennedy, and California Democrat Anna Eschbo.

Top Senate recipients were: Texas Republicans Kay Bailey Hutchison and Phil Gramm, Virginia Republican John Warner, and Massachusetts Democrats Edward Kennedy and Democrat John Kerry.

Idan's Millenium Bug cure costs Leumi \$13m.

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Idan Software Industries of Herzliya has been awarded a \$13 million contract to provide Bank Leumi with its cure for the Millennium Bug, a glitch that could cause major computer problems

when the new millennium arrives.

Idan, a subsidiary of Formula Systems, Israel's largest software house, said the contract will allow the company to exceed last year's \$19 million in revenue.

Including the Bank Leumi project, the firm has so far recorded approximately \$26m. in sales this year.

"We are optimistic about the future," said CFO Meir Moshe, adding that the company is currently bidding for a number of local contracts.

Tadiran Information Services, Ltd. and Idan's affiliate Crystal System Solutions Ltd. will serve as subcontractors for certain portions

of the Bank Leumi project.

The Millennium Bug, alternately known as the Year 2000 Problem, or Y2K, is the result of a shortcut taken by early programmers to save byte space.

Instead of putting in four digits to represent each calendar year, they dropped the first two numbers and entered years by their last two digits - for example, "97" was input instead of "1997."

Unless computers are taught to recognize an entry of "2000," when the new century arrives, systems around the world will read the new year as "00" and either revert back to 1900 or simply stop functioning.

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Alchemia Ltd. D	43.0	0.0
Alchemia Ltd. E	9413.0	-1.0
Alchemia Ltd. F	29.0	0.0
Alchemia Ltd. G	294.0	-3.0
Alchemia Ltd. H	99.0	-0.2
Alchemia Ltd. I	235.0	-0.2
Alchemia Ltd. J	235.0	-0.2
Alchemia Ltd. K	235.0	-0.2
Alchemia Ltd. L	235.0	-0.2
Alchemia Ltd. M	235.0	-0.2
Alchemia Ltd. N	235.0	-0.2
Alchemia Ltd. O	235.0	-0.2
Alchemia Ltd. P	235.0	-0.2
Alchemia Ltd. Q	235.0	-0.2
Alchemia Ltd. R	235.0	-0.2
Alchemia Ltd. S	235.0	-0.2
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ATX Bond C	150.0	0.0
ATX Bond D	150.0	0.0
ATX Bond E	150.0	0.0
ATX Bond F	150.0	0.0
ATX Bond G	150.0	0.0
ATX Bond H	150.0	0.0
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ATX Bond V	150.0	0.0
ATX Bond W	150.0	0.0
ATX Bond X	150.0	0.0
ATX Bond Y	150.0	0.0
ATX Bond Z	150.0	0.0

Bouquet Brothers	169.0	-0.9
Bouquet Brothers Bond 1	254.0	-0.4
Bouquet Brothers Bond 2	131.0	-1.3
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Bouquet Brothers Bond 4	102.0	0.0
Bouquet Brothers Bond 5	102.0	0.0
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Bouquet Brothers Bond 7	102.0	0.0
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Ind. Bldg. Warrant 11	144.0	1.1
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Ind. Bldg. Warrant 13	144.0	1.1
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Am. Israel Paper Mills Bond 4	4.5	0
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Am. Israel Paper Mills Bond 10	4.5	0
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Am. Israel Paper Mills Bond 3	4.5	0
Am. Israel Paper Mills Bond 4	4.5	0
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Am. Israel Paper Mills Bond 10	4.5	0
Am. Israel Paper Mills Bond 11	4.5	0
Am. Israel Paper Mills Bond 12	4.5	0
Am. Israel Paper Mills Bond 13	4.5	0
Am. Israel Paper Mills Bond 14	4.5	0
Am. Israel Paper Mills Bond 15	4.5	0
Am. Israel Paper Mills Bond 16	4.5	0
Am. Israel Paper Mills Bond 17	4.5	0
Am. Israel Paper Mills Bond 18	4.5	0
Am. Israel Paper Mills Bond 19	4.5	0
Am. Israel Paper Mills Bond 20	4.5	0

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Am. Israel Paper Mills Bond 2	4.5	0
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Am. Israel Paper Mills Bond 4	4.5	0
Am. Israel Paper Mills Bond 5	4.5	0
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Am. Israel Paper Mills Bond 7	4.5	0
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Am. Israel Paper Mills Bond 17	4.5	0
Am. Israel Paper Mills Bond 18	4.5	0
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Longo Drug Shts Bond 5	17.3125	-0.0625
Longo Drug Shts Bond 6	17.3125	-0.0625
Longo Drug Shts Bond 7	17.3125	-0.0625
Longo Drug Shts Bond 8	17.3125	-0.0625
Longo Drug Shts Bond 9	17.3125	-0.0625
Longo Drug Shts Bond 10	17.3125	-0.0625
Longo Drug Shts Bond 11	17.3125	-0.0625
Longo Drug Shts Bond 12	17.3125	-0.0625
Longo Drug Shts Bond 13	17.3125	-0.0625
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Longo Drug Shts Bond 15	17.3125	-0.0625
Longo Drug Shts Bond 16	17.3125	-0.0625
Longo Drug Shts Bond 17	17.3125	-0.0625
Longo Drug Shts Bond 18	17.3125	-0.0625
Longo Drug Shts Bond 19	17.3125	-0.0625
Longo Drug Shts Bond 20	17.3125	-0.0625

Kafelnikov, Hingis advance

NEW YORK (AP) — Miffed at being demoted in the seedings for the US Open a year ago, third-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov opened with a strong performance this year.

After being dropped from fourth to seventh in the 1996 draw, which ignored his place in the rankings, Kafelnikov went home to Russia rather than play the year's final Grand Slam tournament.

Yesterday, in opening the second day of play at the new Arthur Ashe Stadium, the Russian put on display all the talents that made him the No. 3 seed this year, the same as his computer ranking. And when it was over, he was into the second round with a 6-2, 6-4, 7-6 (7-4) victory over Cristiano Carati of Italy.

Martina Hingis, who is seeking her third Grand Slam tournament title of the year, easily captured her first-round match, crushing Tami Jones of the US, 6-0, 6-1 in 42 minutes. The 16-year-old Hingis, ranked No. 1 in the world, won the Australian Open in January and Wimbledon in July.

She was joined in the winner's circle by French Open champion Iva Majoli, one of only two players to beat Hingis this year.

Seeded fourth, Majoli upended Catalina Cristea of Romania 6-3, 6-2.

"I'm trying not to think about it," Majoli said of her French Open title. "It's like great; I won it. But you have a tournament each week. If you just think, 'I won the French,' you don't concentrate on your career and everyone is going to beat you."

Third-seeded Jana Novotna beat Spain's Virginia Ruano-Pascual 6-0, 6-4; No. 9 Mary Pierce advanced with a 6-1, 6-2 victory over doubles specialist Gigi Fernandez; No. 12 Mary Joe Fernandez beat Japan's Naoko Kijimuta 6-2, 6-3; and Meilen Tu of Porter Ranch, Calif., the 1994 U.S. Open junior girls champion, downed Joane Watanabe of the US, 6-3, 7-5.

In men's play, No. 6 Alex Corretia eliminated Switzerland's Marc Rosset 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 and 1996 Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek defeated Zimbabwe's Wayne Black 6-4, 6-2, 6-2.

In 1996, the US Tennis Association decided to seed on surface instead of computer rankings, as all Grand Slam tournaments can do.

But when Kafelnikov and Austria's Thomas Muster were dropped and Americans Michael Chang and Andre Agassi were given higher rankings, the men players vociferously complained.

Kafelnikov stomped out of the tournament and took his rackets home in a pique.

Not so this time on either side.

The US Open seeding commit-



SHORT WORK — No. 1 seed Martina Hingis advances to the second round with a 6-0, 6-1 win over the US's Tami Jones in yesterday's action.

tee followed the computer rankings and Kafelnikov followed top-seeded Pete Sampras into the second round.

Graf makes bittersweet appearance

Steffi Graf, still sidelined by injury, made a bittersweet appearance Monday.

"I felt awkward already this morning. It's not so much fun coming here not being able to play," said five-time champion Graf, on the mend from April knee surgery and unable to defend her title.

Graf played only five tournaments this season, winning just one before the knee surgery.

In her absence, 16-year-old

Swiss sensation Martina Hingis took over the world No. 1 ranking.

She deserves to be where she is," Graf said of the Swiss prodigy. "She has played some incredible tennis this year."

But the 28-year-old Graf fired a warning shot at Hingis when asked if she thought she could beat the new No. 1 when healthy.

"I don't think I would try to come back if I didn't think that," said Graf, winner of 21 Grand Slam singles titles.

Graf's recovery recently picked up speed when she started to jog, but she is not rushing her return.

When I come back, I want to be fit and healthy," said Graf.

How the seeded players fared

Monday:

Men, singles, 1st round: Pete Sampras (1), US, def. Todd Larkham, Australia, 6-3, 6-1, 6-3; Dima Pesicari, Romania, def. Goran Ivanisevic (4), Croatia, 4-6, 7-5, 6-1, 7-6 (7-3); Felix Mantilla (12), Spain, def. Jason Stoltenberg, Australia, 7-6 (7-4), 6-3, 6-2; Mats Wilander (14), Australia, def. Karim Alami, Morocco, 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.

Women, singles, 1st round: Monica Seles (2), US, def. Kristie Boogert, Netherlands, 6-1, 6-2; Anke Huber (8), Germany, def. Gloria Pizzichini, Italy, 6-2, 6-2; Irina Spirlea (11), Romania, def. Amy Frazier, US, 6-1, 6-1; Joannette Kruger, South Africa, def. Barbara Paulus (14), Austria, 6-1, 6-7 (2-7); Lisa Raymond, US, def. Ruxandra Dragomir (15), Romania, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

Shentals ride the waves

Brothers Nir and Ran Shental in 2nd place in World Sailing Championships

By HEATHER CHAIT

Israel's Nir and Ran Shental are lying in second place after three sails in the final rounds of the World Sailing Championships (470 division) in Tel Aviv yesterday.

The Shentals, ranked third in the world, finished their three sails yesterday in seventh, sixth and second spots. Ahead of the Israelis are the Russian entrants Dmitry Beryozkin and Yevgeny Bormatov, while the Finnish team of Petri Leskinen and Kristian Heinila are in third place.

The world leaders Andreas Kosmatopoulos and Kostas Trigonis from Greece are stranded in ninth place.

In the consolation group, Israel's Gidi Kliger and Ehud Gal are in second position.

Among the women, the team of Anat Fabrikant and Shani Kedmi are in fourth position after six sails. Their individual results yesterday were four and seven from the two sails.

The Ukrainian team of Vladislava Kratchun and Natalia Gapovonich retain the pole position, having won four of the six sails so far. This partnership won the bronze medal in Atlanta last year and have been European champions four times.

In second place are Nicola Birkner and Wibke Buelle from Germany.

All together, 12 sails will be held in the men's and women's competition.

Petah Tikva advance in UEFA Cup prelims

By DEREK FATTAL

Hapoel Petah Tikva cast aside their domestic blues and continued to blaze along the European trail with a deserved 1-0 home victory over Denmark's Vejle Boldklub in last night's UEFA 2nd preliminary round return leg tie.

The win came after a goalless draw in the Danish town of 50,000 inhabitants two weeks ago in the first leg. The Petah Tikva's now go into Friday's draw in Geneva for the first round proper of the competition thanks to a 22nd-minute own goal scored by Vejle central defender Kent Scholz. The luckless Scholz was attempting a desperate clearance off the line from a Motti Kakkon lob over goalkeeper Erik Boye, which struck the crossbar before rebounding into goal off Scholz's knee.

Nir Levin's game plan looked to be going right in the first half as the "blues" continuously threatened in attack while their defense neutralized any counter-offensives from the Danes. Motti Kakkon had the first sniff of goal early on but was thwarted by the quick-witted Boye. Three clear chances then fell to follow striker Manor Hassan who squandered each one in turn.

Just as the home support of over 6,000 fans was beginning to lose hope of seeing the ball land in the Danish net, Motti Kakkon raced onto a telling pass into the area by captain Benny Koshivilli and spun the ball over the advancing Boye. The ball hit the underside of the bar then bounced off Scholz for the decisive goal.

The complexion of the match changed completely after the interval as the Danes took the ini-

tiative and poured forward against an increasingly fatigued Hapoel. Fortunately the Danes lacked bite in attack and were unable to seriously worry Shai Hess in the Petah Tikva goal.

Israeli nerves were stretched taut when Koshivilli was flashed a red card for a crashing challenge on Vejle's Alex Norlund with six minutes left to play. Fortunately Hapoel managed to see out the remainder of the game with the able assistance of substitute Yaniv Ofri who managed to keep the ball upfield. The home fans greeted the final whistle in joyous fashion. The likes of Inter Milan and Atletico Madrid now lie in wait, but bearing in mind the demolition of Hapoel Beersheba in the same stage of the competition two seasons ago, the Petah Tikva's will fancy a more austere opponent.

Fair play rewarded

LYON (AP) — England and Norway have maintained their extra teams in next season's UEFA Cup competition as a reward for fair play.

Sweden will lose a place while Finland will field two teams instead of one after replacing the Swedes in the Fair Play to three.

England finished top of UEFA's Fair Play league, which is based on the sportsmanship of teams in all European competitions.

England will again be able to field four teams in the 1998-99 competition, the same as this season, and Norway will again have three.

Betar aim to tame the Lions of Lisbon

By DEREK FATTAL and agencies

Betar Jerusalem enter the lions' den tonight for the return leg of their European Champions' Cup second preliminary round meeting against Portuguese champions Sporting Lisbon.

Betar had the upper hand on Israeli soil two weeks ago in a frenetic-paced match but simply failed to get the ball into the back of the Sporting goal. That inability to take their chances will probably mean that the 200 Betar fans traveling to the Portuguese capital will be drowning their sorrows after the match in the famous O Magnifico and Tite-Tope bars near the Jose Alvalade stadium rather than celebrating a historic victory that takes an Israeli club into the elite Champions' League for the first time ever.

Betar's decision to travel to Portugal on Monday instead of Sunday because of the wedding celebrations of goalkeeper Itzik Kornfein smacks of amateurism. After arriving in Lisbon at around 4 pm on Monday, the Israelis held their first training session four hours later, after which coach Dror Kashtan admitted that his players were tired.

Ehud Kahila is set to have a lead role in this game as sweeper behind Betar's two central defenders. Kashtan will be hoping that Stefan Saloi and Itstvan Fishont have a more productive outing than in the first leg, and that Eli Ohana has more luck against his markers this time around. Once again a heavy load is likely to be brought to bear on the shoulders of Yossi Abukasis who excelled so much at Teddy that Sporting are rumored to be interested in purchasing the Betar midfielder.

Sporting manager Octavio Machado is quietly confident that his side will overcome the Jerusalemites before a home

crowd of over 40,000 fans recognized as the most passionate in the land. On the other hand he is aware that one slip could cost dear. Tonight's match kicks off at 23:00 Israel time (Live broadcast on Channel 2).

In Europe, Paris St. Germain, runner-up in the Cup Winners' Cup last season, face a three-goal deficit going into today's qualifier against Romanian champion Steaua Bucharest.

Scottish champion Glasgow Rangers must also win by four goals if they are to advance to the lucrative Champions' League stage of group games after Swedish champion Goteborg had a first-leg 3-0 win at home.

PSG traveled to Bucharest August 13 and narrowly lost the first leg 3-2. But their goals were nullified after UEFA discovered the French club had fielded defender Laurent Fournier, who was ineligible because of a yellow card in last season's Cup Winners' Cup final against Barcelona in Rotterdam.

Newcastle United travel to Croatia Zagreb with a 2-1 advantage, and manager Kenny Dalglish believes his team will be able to overcome the dangerous Croats and their zealous fans.

"We've the advantage going into the second leg and, although it will be a very hard tie against a very good team, we are not a bad side ourselves," Dalglish said. "And it doesn't matter that they have a passionate crowd — we're playing a team, not their fans."

Sparta Prague play at home to Salzburg after drawing 0-0 in the first leg, and both team coaches are aware of the financial rewards that come with the progression to the competition's league stage, which starts September 17.

"Champions League would mean no troubles with the budget for the next couple of years," said Salzburg's coach Heribert Weber.

Fredericks in clean sweep

BERLIN (Reuters) — Namibian sprinter Frankie Fredericks made sure of his share of a jackpot worth more than \$200,000 when he won the last 100 meters of the Golden Four athletics series in 9.99 seconds yesterday.

After victories in Oslo, Zurich and Brussels, Fredericks, who had taken all four events over 200m last year, became the first athlete to complete a clean sweep for the shorter sprint with victory at the Berlin grand prix.

In the Golden Four series a

jackpot of 20 one kilo gold bars is shared between athletes who win specific events at all four meetings.

A strong finish allowed Fredericks to outpace Canadian Olympic champion Donovan Bailey and American Tim Montgomery, who were declared joint second in 10.05.

Fredericks will share the prize with Romanian Gabriela Szabo, who clinched her fourth victory with ease in the women's 5,000m.

Mac TA to meet Ankara in hoops final

Maccabi Tel Aviv beat Paok Saloniki 83-77 last night at Yad Eliyahu in the semifinals of the Pini Lahav basketball tournament. Despite the absence of five players due to injury, Maccabi managed to keep a thin edge throughout the game. Top scorer was Derek Sharp with 21 points.

For Saloniki, Gil Edison also hit 21.

In the early game, TTK Ankara beat Aris Saloniki, 68-63.

Tonight, Maccabi and Ankara will contest the finals at 20:30 (live broadcast on Sports Channel) preceded by the match for third place between Paok and Aris at 18:30.

Ammanjah de Vries

Sports Editors: Joseph Hoffman and Ori Lewis

US Open salutes Ashe

NEW YORK (AP) — In a special tribute to Arthur Ashe, the greatest collection of tennis champions ever assembled gathered Monday night for the dedication of the new US Open stadium named in his honor.

The emotional one-hour ceremony epitomized the dignity and grace that characterized Ashe's life, and the school of the night blended solemnity with joy.

Ashe embodied the best in tennis and sports. John McEnroe said the crowd of 22,500. "He was a remarkable athlete who had an even more remarkable life. He was fair and away the greatest ambassador tennis has ever had."

South African Blesie Deane, tennis legend, honored Ashe for being the first to play against apartheid. He was among the dozens of celebrities attending the ceremony.

James Montgomery Ashe received two warm stand-

ing ovations from the crowd as he spoke of his late husband's "commitment to excellence in tennis and in all walks of life."

From Don Budge and Jack Kramer to Boris Becker and Stefan Edberg, from I. Stene Bronghi to Billie Jean King, from Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova to Monica Seles and Steffi Graf, 37 US Open champions from the past 60 years attended the ceremony.

Among the notable absentees was Andre Agassi, who was hospitalized in Los Angeles and unable to attend.

Pete Sampras also failed to join the parade of champions, saying he was in the locker room while waiting to play qualifier Roddick against Magnus Larsson, seeking his third straight US

Open title and fifth overall, crushed through his opener 6-3, 6-1, 6-3. Whitney Houston sang "One Moment in Time" as scenes of the champions in action were shown on the two giant screens atop the new stadium, and fireworks lit up the night sky at the end of her song.

There were scenes of Ashe teaching children, one of his life's passions, and winning the first title of the Open era in 1968 and Wimbledon in 1975.

Ashe devoted his last years to encouraging inner city kids to learn the game on the courts of Compton, California on the southern edge of Los Angeles. Adding to the festivities was the birthday celebration of another black tennis pioneer, Althea Gibson, who turned 70 and won the first of her two straight national singles titles 40 years ago.

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FOR SALE

London Calling

Tea and sympathy

By Mark Rivlin

After the touncing England endured in the Ashes series, who could have believed such a fairy-tale ending would unfold in the sixth and final Test at the Oval. With the series already wrapped up, and without two strike bowlers, the Australians could have been excused for being a little complacent. But the way they crumbled on Saturday chasing a modest 124 did little to enhance their reputation as the world's greatest side.

But credit where credit is due — and no one deserves more than Phil Tufnell, the Middlesex spinner whose 11-wicket haul earned him the man-of-the-match. Tufnell is one of the great characters of the English game — a player who has never really lived up to his promise in the international arena, and who has been featured in both the front and back pages of the tabloids around allegations of misuse of certain substances and other peccadilloes concerning his private life.

He comes over as a cheeky chappie, a cricket equivalent of Max Miller, never more so than when interviewed by the media. After his first-innings haul of 7-64, Tufnell seemed in a hurry to get off the field rather than bask in the glory of the moment.

When his old Middlesex teammate Simon Hughes, now working for BBC Television, grabbed him for an interview, Tufnell was less than philosophical about his achievement. "I just want to put my feet up and enjoy a cup of tea and a cigarette," Tufnell said. One hopes that the high and mighty of the Sports Council were not listening as the national sporting hero of the moment was extolling the virtues of smoking.

The soccer season is in full flow after the enforced break for World Cup qualifiers. When there is no action on the field, the press usually have their field day off it — enter Ian Wright. The Arsenal striker is two goals short of overhauling Cliff Bastin's scoring record of 178 goals for the club. Would he achieve it at Southampton, a club against which he had an excellent record? The hype was enormous. Wright's response was muted as Marc Overmars and Denis Bergkamp wrapped up the points for the Gunners.

Meanwhile Bastin's 81-year-old widow Joan prepared herself for the inevitable with a controversial dig at Wright. "I wish the record were going to someone else. I don't have a very high opinion of Ian Wright," she told the *Observer* newspaper.

Also hitting the headlines without kicking a ball was Newcastle's Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla who arrived 10 minutes late at St James' Park for the game against Aston Villa and was forced to watch from the stands.

According to Newcastle manager Kenny Dalglish, Asprilla had a valid excuse; he had been delayed getting out of Bogota after representing Colombia in a World Cup qualifying match during the week. "He hired a car, got to Bogota, and found there was an air-traffic controllers strike. But he tried really hard to get here," explained

Dalglish. Whatever the reality, to travel from Bogota to Newcastle and arrive just 10 minutes late is quite a feat.

One has to feel a little sympathy for Wales manager Bobby Gould who saw his side beaten 6-4 by Turkey in last week's World Cup qualifier. It was difficult to decipher whether this score represented a Davis Cup tennis contest or an international soccer match.

Gould, vilified in the press, does not look like he will be continuing too long in the job, but he certainly provided us with the quote of the week. Commenting on the standard of refereeing in Turkey, Gould said that the Belgium manager was watching the game, and told Gould afterwards that he thought the referee "must have been allowed to sleep with all the prostitutes in Istanbul."

Now, Liverpool may have not started the season in their usual winning style, but do not rule them out — not if Saturday's performance at Blackburn is anything to go by. Coming off the back of a draw and a loss, Liverpool took the game to Blackburn and were unlucky not to get all three points in a 1-1 draw. Liverpool's scorer was Michael Owen, yet another name for the future in a long line of home-grown talent. Owen is just 17, but already he is being compared to Robbie Fowler and Steve Macmanaman in terms of ability and temperament.

Liverpool's youth team is managed by former star Steve Heighway, one of the few players past and present to hold a university degree. Heighway's approach is to sift through the hundreds of talented youngsters in his soccer-crazy city, and with Owen, he has found the top of the range. The way Owen took his goal for Liverpool at Blackburn was in the same class as Wright, or Ian Rush in his heyday, and the problem now for manager Roy Evans is whether to restore Fowler to the team when he is fit or stay with his prodigy.

At the other end of soccer's hierarchy, spare a thought for the former Chelsea and England striker Kerry Dixon who became the first managerial casualty of the season this week, leaving struggling Third Division Doncaster by mutual consent. The south Yorkshire club have opened the season with three straight league defeats, conceding 10 goals and scoring just one. Sandwiched between this miserable run is the little matter of an 8-0 home defeat to Nottingham Forest in the first round of the Coca Cola Cup.

Finally to a story of intrigue which would have graced the pages of any PD James novel. On Friday, reports were circulating around the city of London about the untimely death of Chelsea manager Ruud Gullit, apparently in a car accident.

These exaggerated rumors might have had an effect on the share prices allowing dealers to make a fast profit, but the club stepped in immediately and the shares closed only half a penny down on the day. Alive and well, he still has to sort out his future at the club which is the subject of speculation.



FINESSE — Roger Neilsen (2nd from left) explains the finer points of his craft to a pair of eager Israeli youngsters

(Lance Gallen)

Breaking the ice up north

NHL coach leads hockey summer camp at Metulla's Canada Center

By LIONEL GAFFEN

"I never thought I'd be lacing on my skates in the middle of the desert," said Jean Beliveau, as he prepared to take his charges into the 15th Maccabiah ice hockey tournament. The competition, which was won by the Canadians, started a landslide of interest, which has been met by the recently completed ice hockey summer camp at Metulla.

Following the Maccabiah success, Metulla's ever-energetic mayor, Yossi Goldberg, arranged for the arrival of the internationally renowned Roger Neilsen's hockey camp, which has been active for the past 21 years in Canada, and has an average of about 500 participants each summer.

For the first time, the hockey camp also took place in Israel, putting this country in a very exclusive group.

The program ran from August 10-21 with two age groups: the 10-14 year old and the juniors from 15-18 years. Approximately 50 youngsters took part in what is hoped will be an expanded program in the coming

years, with about 15 of the teenagers hailing from Canada.

The program was sponsored by the Canada Israel Experience Center and the United Israel Appeal of Canada, with the support of the NHL including a number of its individual teams.

Neilsen is currently assistant coach for the NHL's St. Louis Blues and has been head coach of the Toronto Maple Leafs, Florida Panthers, New York Rangers and the Vancouver Canucks during an NHL career spanning two decades.

This is his third trip to Israel, and when approached with bringing his hockey team here by Jeff Budd, a hockey enthusiast who is competition director of the Canada Center, and Marshall Starkman, an associate of Neilsen's and a goaltending coach with the Lindsay Muskies in Ontario, he jumped at the idea.

Accompanying Neilsen on this coaching mission was Bill Lindsay, 27, who is currently in his fourth year with the Florida Panthers. He began his career with the former Quebec Nordiques and was with them for a year and a half, before being taken by the Panthers in the expansion draft. There

he enjoyed the benefits of having Neilsen as his head coach for the next two seasons. The Panthers reached the Stanley Cup finals at the end of the 1995-96 season, the fastest ever for an expansion team, only to lose to the Colorado Avalanche. This is Lindsay's first summer coaching with Neilsen.

Also part of the training team was Alex Andjelic, a top European coach and author of the book *European Hockey Drill*, is currently coaching in Utrecht, the Netherlands and co-coached the German entry in the World Cup last fall. This peripatetic coach is currently hard at work in Switzerland as well as Canada, and was heavily involved with the recently completed world championship of in-line hockey, which is played on roller blades.

"Twelve professional teams took part in Anaheim, California, in this rapidly growing sport," claims Andjelic, "and it was sponsored by the IIHF (the International Ice Hockey Federation), and the NHL. It's really taken off on a world-wide basis, and seems to be ideal for a country like Israel."

"These (Israeli) kids are very eager to learn and are very disciplined. They're a pleasure to work with and are improving by

the hour."

Starkman, one of the initiators of the current camp, is a former goaltender, who has become a goaltending coach, and has been with the Roger Neilsen hockey camp for the past four years. He has co-authored and directed an instructional video called *The Puck Stops Here II*. In 1996, he spent four months at the Canada Center on their volunteer program, headed by transplanted Canuck Budd.

Another hockey vet, Paul Bedford, coach and general manager of the Lindsay Muskies, has been associated with the camp since its inception. He described Neilsen as being one of the most innovative hockey coaches around. "He was the first to use video as a training tool and to emphasize conditioning, to the extent that he acquired the nickname, 'Captain Video'."

Each one of these veteran pros expressed the desire to come to Israel in the future and coach a junior hockey team. They had nothing but praise for the Canada Center, and the skating facilities in particular, saying that they were comparable to any sports facility in North America, and that it was a distinct pleasure being here in Israel.

Bosox edge Mariners in 9th despite Griffey's pair

SEATTLE (AP) — John Valentin drove in the go-ahead run with a ninth-inning single as the Boston Red Sox overcame two homers by Ken Griffey Jr. to beat the Mariners 9-8 on Monday night.

The loss reduced Seattle's lead in the AL West over second-place Anaheim to two games. The Angels were off.

Griffey hit his major-league leading 42nd and 43rd homers, but the Mariners' bullpen couldn't get the job done again.

Seattle relievers Norm Charlton and Heathcliff Slocumb (0-8) blew saves in the seventh and eighth innings, giving the Mariners' bullpen 20 blown saves this year.

In the ninth, Jeff Frye drew a leadoff walk from Slocumb and Darren Bragg sacrificed. Nomar Garciaparra was intentionally walked and Valentin, who went 4-for-6, singled to left.

Brewers 7, Rangers 2

Julio Franco homered as host Milwaukee won for the eighth time in 11 games to close within 3½ games of Cleveland in the AL Central.

Franco hit a two-run homer and went 3-for-4 as Milwaukee (65-65) reached .500 for the first time since August 5.

Joel Adamson (4-2), starting in place of injured Bryce Florie, allowed two runs and four hits in six innings, striking out seven to tie his career high.

Juan Gonzalez hit his 31st homer for Texas.

Tigers 7, Twins 6 (12)

Brian Hunter's RBI single in the top of the 12th inning off Rick Aguilera (4-4) was the Twins' fourth straight loss and 14th in 15 games.

Minnesota's Paul Molitor went 2-for-5 and moved into 14th place on the career list with 3,144.

Brad Radke, attempting to become the second 18-game winner in the majors, didn't get a decision for the first time in 23 starts since April 27. Radke allowed six runs and six hits in five-plus innings.

Matt Walbeck opened the 12th with a single, advanced to second on Deivi Cruz's sacrifice, before scoring on Hunter's bloop single to left.

Melvin Nieves and Walbeck homered for Detroit. Tigers starter Scott Sanders gave up three runs and six hits in five innings.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Reds 7, Rockies 4 (1st)

Reds 6, Rockies 4 (2nd)

Chris Stynes had four hits and two RBIs and Jon Nunnally had three hits as visiting Cincinnati completed a sweep of a doubleheader.

In the opener, Reggie Sanders and Bret Boone hit two-run homers as the Reds jumped out to a 7-0 lead.

Larry Walker went 5-for-9 in the doubleheader, raising his average to .376, seven points behind NL leader Tony Gwynn. The Rockies had their 194th and 195th consecutive sellouts and became the first team this season to draw 3 million fans.

Dodgers 8, Pirates 2 (1st)

Pirates 4, Dodgers 3 (2nd)

Mark Smith and Joe Randa homered on consecutive pitches off Todd Worrell in the bottom of the ninth as Pittsburgh salvaged a doubleheader split.

Ramon Martinez (7-3) won his first official start in more than two months and the Dodgers roughed up Jason Schmidt (8-7) for eight runs in 4½ innings to win the opener 8-2.

Worrell (2-4) walked Eddie Williams and Randa followed with a shot to straightaway center that Otis Nixon couldn't catch despite nearly climbing the wall.

Smith hit the next pitch for his second dramatic game-winner of the season.

Phillies 6, Padres 4 (1st)

Phillies 10, Padres 1 (2nd)

Rico Brogna homered and drove in two runs as Philadelphia completed a doubleheader sweep at home. Midre Cummings went 6-for-9 in the doubleheader, getting his first four-hit game in the opener and driving in two runs.

Ron Blazier (1-1) got the win with two innings of relief in the second game, and Ricky Bottalico worked a perfect ninth for his 24th save as five pitchers combined on a five-hitter, sending San Diego to its sixth loss in eight games. Andy Ashby (6-10), who allowed five runs and eight hits in six innings, is 0-4 since July 20.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Los Angeles 100, 200 000-3 8 1

Pittsburgh 100, 000 003-4 8 3

Cincinnati 100, 000 000-1 10 0

Philadelphia 100, 000 000-1 10 0

San Diego 010 003 000-4 5 2

Philadelphia 001 130 000-6 10 0

Ashby, Bochtler (7) and Fleahery (7)

Bottalico (8) and Parent (10)

Blazier 1-1, Ashby 6-10, Sv-Bottalico (24)

HRs—San Diego, Caminiti (19)

Philadelphia, Brogna (16)

(1st game)

Montreal 000 010 010-2 6 0

St. Louis 000 000 001-1 4 1

P.J.Martinez, Urbina (9) and Fletcher

Widger (9); Aybar, Fossas (9) and

Lampkin, W-P.J.Martinez 15-6, L—

Aybar 0-3, Sv-Urbina (21), HR—

Montreal, Fletcher (16)

(2nd game)

San Diego 010 003 000-4 5 2

Philadelphia 001 130 000-6 10 0

Ashby, Bochtler (7) and Fleahery (7)

Bottalico (8) and Parent (10)

Blazier 1-1, Ashby 6-10, Sv-Bottalico (24)

HRs—San Diego, Caminiti (19)

Philadelphia, Brogna (16)

(1st game)

Cincinnati 021 040 000-7 13 0

Colorado 000 022 200-8 12 2

Fe.Rodriguez, Sullivan (5), P.Martinez

(7), Bellinda (8), Shaw (9) and J.Oliver

F.Castillo, S.Reed (6), M.Munoz (7)

Dipoto (9) and J.Reed, W—

P.Martinez 1-0, L—F.Castillo 10-11

Sv—Shaw (26), HRs—Cincinnati,

R.Sanders (17), B.Boone (6), Colorado,

J.Walker (37), Helton (3)

(2nd game)

Cincinnati 210 002 010-8 17 1

Colorado 010 002 001-4 12 0

G.White, Graves (6), Remlinger (7)

Bellinda (8), Shaw (9) and Fortycye

Hutton, Holmes (6), Leskane (8)

DeJaan (9) and Marwaning—W—

G.White 2-1, L—Hutton 3-2, Sv—Shaw

(27), HRs—Cincinnati, Nunnally (5)

Colorado, Bichette (20), Helton (4)

(1st game)

Los Angeles 104 030 000-8 13 1

Pittsburgh 110 000 000-2 5 2

Mark Leiter (9-13) won the first game, scattering 10 hits and striking out nine in his second complete game of the season.

Giants 7, Mets 1

Brian Johnson hit a two-run homer and Shawn Estes (17-4) beat host New York for the third time this season, allowing one run and six hits in 6½ innings.

R.Martinez, Guthrie (8) and Piazza;

Schmidt, Rubeiz (5), Sodowsky (5),

Christiansen (8) and Kendall, W—

R.Martinez, 7-3, L—Schmidt, 8-7, Sv—

Guthrie (1), HR—Los Angeles, Mondale

(26)

(2nd game)

Los Angeles 100 200 000-3 8 1

Pittsburgh 100 000 003-4 8 3

Candioti, Cesna (7), To.Worrell (9) and

Princes, Peters, M.Williams (3) and Oak

W-M.Williams 6-3, L—To.Worrell 2-4,

HRs—Pittsburgh, Randa (6), M.Smith

(7)

(1st game)

San Diego 000 000 010-1 10 0

Philadelphia 000 170 020-10 13 0

Cunanne, D.Veras (5), Bruske (5),

Bergman (7) and C.Hernandez;

M.Letter and Lieberthal, W—M.Letter,

9-13, L—Cunanne, 6-3, HR—

Philadelphia, Lieberthal (19)

(2nd game)

San Diego 010 003 000-4 5 2

Philadelphia 001 130 000-6 10 0

Ashby, Bochtler (7) and Fleahery (7)

Bottalico (8) and Parent (10)

Blazier 1-1, Ashby 6-10, Sv-Bottalico (24)

HRs—San Diego, Caminiti (19)

Philadelphia, Brogna (16)

(1st game)

Montreal 000 010 010-2 6 0

St. Louis 000 000 001-1 4 1

P.J.Martinez, Urbina (9) and Fletcher

Widger (9); Aybar, Fossas (9) and

Lampkin, W-P.J.Martinez 15-6, L—

Aybar 0-3, Sv-Urbina (21), HR—

Montreal, Fletcher (16)

(2nd game)

San Diego 010 003 000-4 5 2

Philadelphia 001 130 000-6 10 0

Ashby, Bochtler (7) and Fleahery (7)

Bottalico (8) and Parent (10)

Blazier 1-1, Ashby 6-10, Sv-Bottalico (24)

HRs—San Diego, Caminiti (19)

Philadelphia, Brogna (16)

(1st game)

Los Angeles 104 030 000-8 13 1

Pittsburgh 110 000 000-2 5 2



Tigers' Matt Walbeck (Reuters)

American League				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
East Division				
Baltimore	83	44	.654	7
New York	77	52	.597	7
Boston	66	66	.500	19½
Toronto	62	69	.473	11
Detroit	61	69	.469	23½
Central Division				
Cleveland	67	60	.528	—
Milwaukee	65	65	.500	3½
Chicago	64	66	.492	4½
Kansas City	52	76	.408	15
Minnesota	52	77	.403	16
West Division				
Seattle	73	58	.557	—
Anaheim	71	60	.542	2
Texas	62	69	.473	11
Oakland	52	79	.397	21
National League				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
East Division				
Atlanta	80	50	.615	—
Florida	75	54	.581	4½
New York	70	60	.538	10
Montreal	64	65	.498	15½
Philadelphia	47	80	.365	31½
Central Division				
Houston	69	61	.531	—
Pittsburgh	57	65	.468	3
St. Louis	59	71	.454	10
Cincinnati	58	71	.450	10½
Chicago	53	78	.405	16½
West Division				
Los Angeles	73	59	.553	—
San Francisco	72	59	.550	—
Colorado	62	70	.470	11
San Diego	62	70	.470	11

Congo's miracle church

With the pastor shouting and the choir chanting loudly, all eyes were fixed on the woman with the heavy limp and pained grimace as she stood before the altar in the sweltering church.

While the woman was instructed to lie on the floor, the pastor of the Miracle Center Church, his voice booming under the high, ramshackle roof of metal and plastic sheeting, cried, "We ask the Lion of Judah to remove her pain and make her whole!" Suddenly, while large plastic collection bags were being passed around, instead of the traditional donation plate, the woman bounded up from the floor beaming, "miraculously healed. Hallelujahs rang out from the amazed worshippers.

Churches like these have become big businesses in Congo, until recently Zaire.

And the 8-year-old Miracle Center, whose credo would seem to be "the bolder the better," has become one of this ragged city's most prosperous operations.

Every Sunday, by the thousands, residents drawn by their hard luck flock here in their best clothing. And the frenzied services of the church seem planned to soothe people whose marriages are broken, who cannot find work, who suffer every kind of ill, particularly AIDS.

The pastor of the Miracle Center offers is not of the traditional, spiritual kind: the promise of peace in a world beyond.

Instead, as the church's name suggests, it revolves around the idea of immediate action by God.

And despite their modest means, the worshippers accept the church's

unabashed message on divine intervention: that generous gifts can help produce it. They bring food, televisions and radios, clothing and whatever money they can gather.

Many worshippers at the Miracle Center freely admit having been warned away by neighbors, other pastors or friends. A church that promises miracles every week,

"When people are miserable they want nothing so much as to dream and have miracles."

while aggressively plying the congregation for donations, they have all been told, is at the very least suspicious.

But for those who keep coming back and keep giving — and there are many — the lure of their faith in miracles is too much to resist.

"My husband left me four years ago," said Evelynne Mambweni, "and since that time, I have not been able to find the right man."

Mambweni, 36, an employee at a local cellular telephone company, recently gave the church the equivalent of three months' salary.

"People tell me that I am wasting my money. But what good is my money if I am not married, have no children and am unhappy in life?"

The genius of the Miracle Center, and the scores of other churches

like it that have sprung up around Kinshasa in recent years, has been in exploiting a marriage of deeply rooted Central African traditions and Western techniques. The former have to do with material sacrifice, spirit worship and magic, the latter with the driven corporate organization and hucksterism of the television evangelist.

"The missionaries who came here sought to stifle the African thirst for the miracle," said the Rev. Ndoudou Essambela, a conventional Baptist pastor who, like many in the more traditional religious orders here, is critical of the new evangelical churches.

"Many people will tell you that that has just left them unsatisfied," "Our churches have tended to focus on the afterlife, which is fine," Essambela said earlier this year.

"But in Zaire, there are so many real problems right here on earth. And when people are miserable they want nothing so much as to dream and have miracles."

The first well-known Zairian evangelist, a Father Osborne, clandestinely preached that he could cure the sick and enrich the poor as long as 30 years ago. But religious experts

here say evangelical churches like the Miracle Center spread with the loosening dictatorship of Mobutu Sese Seko, who was recently ousted.

Until 1990, when civilian opponents obliged Mobutu to accept multiparty politics, Zaire tolerated the presence of only three Christian churches: the Roman Catholic Church, brought by Belgian colonizers; the Protestant churches that followed; and a charismatic indige-

nous sect known as the Kimbanguist Church. About a quarter of Congo's 45 million people are Protestants, with as many as half of those belonging to evangelical churches.

"The older churches were very much co-opted by the dictatorship, which protected their franchise," said the Rev. Pierre Massamba, a

"The missionaries who came here sought to stifle the African thirst for the miracle."

Catholic priest in the Matongue district of Kinshasa. "Once the restrictions came off there was a veritable explosion of new parishes and doctrines." In Congo, it is the traditional churches, Roman Catholic or Protestant, that educate the young and care for the sick.

But the more traditional churches do not offer what increasingly desperate congregations long for. In recent years, as life here has grown harder, the older houses of worship have been steadily losing ground to their aggressive evangelical cousins.

The new churches make no bones about not reinvesting in their communities the money they collect each week. "Our concern is the word of God," said an evangelical preacher who refused to be identi-

fied. "Once people have received the word of God they can have anything." Those who run the Miracle Center reject accusations that they are robbing the already vulnerable. But at the same time they are surprisingly open about the corporate nature of their church and the special advantages that persistent traditional African beliefs give them in their competition with longer-established denominations.

"We are not only a church, we are an enterprise," said Bomperre Egidie, a lay preacher and manager of the Miracle Center, who greets visitors in a fine shirt and tie in his air-conditioned office in a building behind the altar. "At the end of the month, I receive a salary for what I do." For Egidie, the Miracle Center is plainly appealing to people on whom ancestral religious practices have left strong marks. The difference, he says, is that his church teaches faith in God, rather than in a panoply of spirits.

"In our traditional culture you often have to make a sacrifice if you want to get results," he said. "It is the same here. The Bible says that God will materially aid those who give to Him. All we are teaching our flock is that if you want to reap you have to sow." For Essambela, the Baptist pastor — who years ago, before being ordained, once attended evangelical services in hopes of a cure for hepatitis — the distinction is not so clear.

"The one thing they have right is that to combat this kind of thievery people need the word of God," he said. "Jesus speaks of miracles, but he never said anything about selling them." (New York Times)

Vietnam's Caodai of honor

In the world of conformist communist Vietnam, the once-banned Caodai religious sect is a splash of color with a zeal for the garish.

Adherents commune with the spirits of historical figures, including Joan of Arc, Victor Hugo, Lenin and, for more light-hearted seances, Charlie Chaplin. They look to the spirits of such people because of strong personality traits that can be models for others.

Secluded in southern Vietnam's Tay Ninh province, their main temple, decked out in blues, yellows and reds, borrows from religions around the globe in an effort to bridge the world of the living with the spirit world.

Founded in the 1920s, Caodai is a hybrid of Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Vietnamese spiritism, Christianity, Hinduism and Islam.

The result is a jumbled code of ethics and tenets that has attracted more than 3 million followers, despite the Vietnamese government's control of religion.

Caodai believers also practice priestly celibacy, vegetarianism and the worship of ancestors. The religion emphasizes morality and frowns on material luxuries, lust and deceit.

It's a blend of East and West. Saints include modern China's patriarch Sun Yat-Sen and Vietnam's first poet laureate, Nguyen Binh Khiem.

In early June, Caodai devotees got a big boost when their religion

received official sanction from the government, legitimizing its existence in the eyes of the communist leadership.

It had been a long struggle for a religious movement that raised an army to fight against the communists during the Vietnam War. But today, the government says Caodai fills a void for many people.

"We find the Caodai existence meets a legitimate spiritual demand of the people here," said Muoi Thuong, a spokesman for the government's Religious Affairs Committee in Tay Ninh.

"These people are religious followers, but they are also good citizens and patriots," Thuong said in a telephone interview from his office in Tay Ninh, 95 kilometers northwest of Ho Chi Minh City.

Established by Ngo Minh Chieu, a French-educated Vietnamese mystic, Caodai once dominated Tay Ninh, controlling the religious and political affairs of the entire province.

In 1975, when North Vietnamese troops overran US-backed South Vietnam, Caodai was banned and the church's lands were confiscated. But behind the scenes, the religion lived on, with its seance rituals and prayer meetings.

Today, Caodai is practiced in about half of Vietnam's provinces.

In Tay Ninh, about 40 percent of the province's 916,000 people are Caodai believers, and the number is expanding every year, said Thuong. (AP)

Battling Gulf War syndrome

Britain's Labor government recently announced a new research program into the mysterious ailments suffered by many Gulf War veterans and promised to speed up assessments of their condition.

The announcement was a victory for ex-soldiers in their campaign for official recognition of "Gulf War Syndrome," which they link to preparations for the 1991 war to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait.

The government said it plans a £2.5 million (NIS 15 million) research program into the possible health effects of the combination of vaccines and tablets given to Gulf War troops to protect them against chemical and biological warfare, and against desert insects.

Veterans say the syndrome results from a "cocktail" of chemicals administered to troops and has brought problems such as asthma, chronic fatigue, depression, and skin ailments. Some maintain it has resulted in serious birth defects in their children.

The government program will be supervised by an independent panel of experts, including a representative of the Gulf veterans, said Armed Forces Minister John Reid. "We have a duty to discharge our responsibilities in respect of those who have served their country. I aim to see we do just that," said Reid, who was to meet veterans' representatives before announcing the move to parliament.

About 51,000 Britons served in the Gulf War, and up to 4,000 veterans and their families have illnesses. Veterans argue that evidence gathered in the US, whose troops were also involved in the

Gulf War, supports the theory that the cocktail of immunizations and pills may be responsible for the syndrome.

The Labor Party, which ended 18 years of Conservative rule by winning a general election on May 1, had been critical of the previous government's policy on Gulf War syndrome. It accused it of lagging behind with research and compensation for veterans. The Conservative government had insisted there was no single cause to explain the ailments, and attributed them to the stress of the war.

Reid said his government would continue to pay war pensions to

About 51,000 Britons served in the Gulf War, and up to 4,000 veterans and their families have illnesses.

those disabled because of the Gulf War and that if further research showed liability, it would pay compensation. He also promised to speed up the Defense Ministry's Medical Assessment Program which looks into the ailments of Gulf War veterans and said that the ministry would make public all the relevant evidence it had on the subject. (Reuters)

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New lineup on Channel 2

By HELEN KAYE

It's rotation time again at Channel 2, and from next Monday all the franchisees move to their new days with new or special programs in prime time, to keep their audiences faithful and their ratings solid.

Keshet moves from Sunday and Wednesday to Monday and



Dudu Topaz will be a guest of Hani Nahmias on 'In First Place.' (Yoni Hamelech)

Thursday, which means it gets an extra day next week and viewers will be able to see the last three segments of *Hafuch* ("Backwards") at 9:30 p.m. and back-to-back Woody Allen movies at 12:40 a.m. on Sunday and Monday. The sweetener is a

new Chuck Norris action series called *Walker* which starts Sunday at 7 p.m., but will play Mondays thereafter.

The big question is "what about Dudu?" Entertainer Dudu Topaz is currently abroad and there's no new contract yet, so it's nail-biting time. His slot was Sunday at 8:30 p.m. and his show consistently got ratings of around 35%.

Songstress Hani (Sound of Music) Nahmias is the drawing card for Reshet's new Tuesday/Friday time slot. She's the hostess of a variety show to run for six weeks, called *Bemakom Harishon* ("In First Place") on Fridays at 8:45 p.m., after the news. In the last week of October Zehu Zeh returns in the same time slot for an hour, rather than the 30 minutes it had on the old Monday/Thursday schedule.

Dan Shilon fans will be able to see him Tuesdays from 10 to midnight and Reshet has some spiffy movies lined up like *The Usual Suspects*, or *Fatal Attraction* on Saturday at 10 p.m., because Reshet keeps Saturday until April.

Einat Ehrlich supporters will still see her *Shishi Vahevi* on Fridays at 6:30 p.m., because she's moved to Reshet from Tel-Ad, which will now broadcast Sunday/Wednesday. Because of the holidays Tel-Ad has decided to defer most of its new programming to the end of October, except for one. Avri Gilad will host *Yihyeh Tov* ("It'll be fine"), an entertainment program with stars, games and prizes on Sundays at 8:30 p.m., from October 5.

Batsheva appoints general manager

By HELEN KAYE

Ben-Ami Einav, 50, has been appointed the new general manager of Batsheva Dance Company and will officially take over December 1 from acting GM Naomi Fortis. He replaces Mira Idelis, who resigned in July. He comes to the post after 12 years as the general manager of the Haifa Symphony Orchestra, a period he defines as "good, happy and successful years, but it's time to move on."

According to Einav, the search committee, consisting of Benny Gal-Ed, Nava Dissenchik and Ziona Peled, approached him, and "the challenge of managing the No. 1 dance company in the country and working with a world-class choreographer of Ohad Naharin's stature appeals to me."

Einav says that he and Naharin, Batsheva's artistic director, have met several times "and have reached an understanding. I think we can do wonderful things together." Asked whether he would be able to curb the strong-willed Naharin's plans if needed, Einav said diplomatically that "fiscal reality rules us all."

As well as running the Haifa Symphony Orchestra, Einav is head of the dance department at

the Arts and Culture Authority, a position from which he will now resign. He was a member of the Talgam and Pachter government committees, appointed, respectively, to consider the situation of dance locally and the future of



Ben-Ami Einav (above) looks forward to doing "wonderful things" with Batsheva Dance Company artistic director Ohad Naharin.

the Inbal Dance Theater. He is also a member of the ACA Executive Council.



Alcohol problems, repressed memories and messy romantic entanglements lend a sense of realism to the futuristic characters of 'Babylon 5.'

His fans have designed a church for him, but Joe Straczynski is not a god. He's a cult leader. A cult television leader, that is.

His fans put up a "Church of Joe" page on the Internet, which includes commandments, member testimonials and information about J. Michael Straczynski. The church was founded to proclaim loyalty to Straczynski and the show he created, *Babylon 5* (Family Channel, 11:25 tonight).

Alongside *Xena, Warrior Princess*, *La Femme Nikita*, *The X-Files* and other contemporary shows with offbeat attitudes, *Babylon 5*, which premiered in 1994, has attracted hard-core aficionados.

Straczynski, the show's creator and executive producer, has received fan mail from places as varied as the Vatican and the Pentagon. *Babylon 5* has Web sites, bulletin boards and chat rooms. Fan clubs abound all over the world.

The syndicated program is the first science-fiction TV show in the past 30 years, aside from *Star Trek* and its spinoffs, to survive beyond three seasons. It has won two Emmys for special visual effects and make-up.

Straczynski wrote the original story outline as a five-season saga in which every season is a volume, and every episode a chapter. Set in the year 2261, the show chronicles life on a space station, Babylon 5. Representatives of different alien cultures have gathered there after a devastating transgalactic war, forcing former enemies to live and work together. It's an outpost, a Casablanca where the refugees are distinguished by exoskulls instead of

'Babylon 5': The face of the future?

By TAMARA IKENBERG

accents. Straczynski's view of the future is not as idealistic as that of Gene Roddenberry, creator of the original *Star Trek* series. It has a dark side, and conflicts are rarely resolved in time for the final credits. The characters are complex, equipped with deluxe sets of baggage. Alcohol problems, repressed memories and messy romantic entanglements lend a sense of realism. "We're going to be as flawed and screwed-up as we are now," Straczynski says. "But we're still fighting to make a better world."

Born in New Jersey, Straczynski, 43, grew up reading science-fiction sagas and fantasy such as J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*. It was this fascination with science-fiction sagas that inspired him to cre-

ate one for television, he says.

Straczynski has worked as a journalist at several California papers and has written for magazines ranging from *Writer's Digest* to *Penthouse*. He's published numerous "dark fantasy" short stories in fantasy and science-fiction magazines, in addition to having written two novels, *Demon Night* and *OtherSide*. His television writing credits include *Murder She Wrote*, *Walker, Texas Ranger* and the British science-fiction cult program *Blake's 7*.

In 1995, *Newsweek* declared him one of the "Fifty for the Future," a group of "innovators who will shape our lives as we move into the 21st century."

Straczynski thinks that TV science fiction hasn't hit the mainstream simply

because it hasn't been that good. Most shows have been formulaic and stereotypical, he says, citing *V* (1984-1985), which used every convention from flying saucers to funny aliens to cute kids.

Thoughtful characterization and depth are essential, he says. "Kill the cute kid, tell a story." He does appreciate the influence and vision of the original *Star Trek*, despite its relentless optimism.

"You can have more than one paradigm," he says. "There's room in the universe for both shows."

To Straczynski, the appeal of TV science fiction is all about the future. Whether it's peaceful or riddled with conflict, people want the reassurance that they're working toward something.

Straczynski often spends more than four hours a day on the Internet beaming *Babylon 5* information to fans. He often doesn't get to sleep until around 5 a.m. "It's a gesture of respect toward the fans," he says. "I always vowed that if I ever got my own show I'd remain accessible and accountable."

The guy doesn't get out often. He's seen only two movies in the past year: *Mars Attacks* and *Independence Day*. He doesn't go to parties. He goes to dinner every week or two with science-fiction legend Harlan Ellison, who also helps out on the set of *Babylon 5*.

"I don't have a life," he says. "I don't drink, don't smoke, don't do drugs, just coffee and doughnuts."

But despite his not-quite-rock-and-roll lifestyle, it's apparent that he's larger than life in the eyes of his fans.

(The Baltimore Sun)

UN competes at Venice Film Festival

By MARTHA SLUD

At the Venice Film Festival, movie buffs can attend special screenings featuring one of the world's most industrious moviemakers: the United Nations.

More often associated with bureaucracy than creativity, the United Nations has quietly produced scores of acclaimed documentaries, animated and concert films over the years. Those lending their talent have included director Roberto Rossellini and Pulitzer Prize-winning author John Hersey.

The films are a blend of information, artistic expression and, in some cases, a good dose of the UN spin on disarmament, the environment, human rights and other weighty topics.

In the United States, the films usually are broadcast on public television stations and in schools. Broadcasters in developing nations can show them for free.

The United Nations even won an Academy Award, for the 1947 short documentary *First Steps*, about a disabled child learning to walk. The Oscar is kept in an

eighth-floor meeting room of the UN Secretariat building along with other awards.

The United Nations says it's won about 75 international prizes in its more than 50 years of filmmaking, including the Cannes festival's Palme d'Or award for *Boom*, a 1979 animated film on the arms race.

"It's a well-kept secret," Nadia Younes, media director of the UN Department of Public Information, said of the filmmaking. "It's one of the ways of telling our story, and certainly the visual medium is a loud medium. From the very beginning of the UN, films were a way to accompany the work that the UN does."

Lately, the United Nations has tried to exploit its unique access to places such as Iraq and North Korea that are off-limits to most filmmakers.

The Venice festival, which opens Wednesday and runs through Sept. 6, will feature *Secrets in the Sand*, about Iraq's stockpile of biological weapons. The film includes rare footage of UN weapons experts inspecting facilities in the Iraqi desert where deadly germ warfare agents were produced.

A UN video team recently returned from North Korea, which allowed the team in to shoot footage of famine after the United Nations suggested it could pool the video to news organizations, Younes said. The United Nations has no immediate plans to produce a documentary with its footage, said Steve Whitehouse, chief of the video section of the public information department.

While making films about places such as Iraq and North Korea could be potentially volatile, UN filmmakers say they're careful not to provoke anyone. "As long as whatever documentary you make is factual and objective, and the video material has been gathered in a completely above-board and open way, there really shouldn't be any problem," Whitehouse said. He said Iraq hasn't commented on the biological weapons film, which was released a few months ago.

Also being shown in Venice is another 1997 release, *A Cyber-Tale of Three Cities*, featuring three teenagers talking to each other over the Internet about urban problems, and *Breaking Barriers*, a 1989 film about the disabled.

Younes said she hopes the Italian festival — and Secretary-General Kofi Annan's appearance there — will attract more attention to UN films.

The media division annually spends about \$600,000 on documentaries, including paying a production staff of seven, Whitehouse said. The United Nations recoups some money through fees charged for broadcasting rights. The United Nations has cut the filmmaking budget extensively over the last few years, Younes said.

Many of the early films were highly artistic. In the 1958 *Overture*, the Vienna Philharmonic plays Beethoven's *Egmont Overture* in the background amid pictures of the aftermath of war, hunger and poverty. Toward the end, the scenes become more hopeful — clean water runs, villagers learn to read and write. And finally, with a rousing crescendo, the camera beams on the glittering United Nations headquarters — a beacon in the dark New York City sky.

Overture, nominated for an Oscar, was made by director Thorold Dickinson. Others involved in UN films include

Hersey, who wrote the script for a 1957 film about Hungarian refugees, *Out*, and Rossellini, who shot footage in the Amazon and Africa for a 1979 film entitled *People: A Matter of Balance*.

"There are quite a few formidable filmmakers who have been drawn to the United Nations and what it stands for," said Joshua Siegel, assistant film and video curator at New York's Museum of Modern Art, which organized a retrospective of UN films two years ago in commemoration of the world body's 50th anniversary. "The United Nations has given a lot of filmmakers the opportunity to make a lot of films that otherwise would never be made," he said.

Well-known personalities, such as Alistair Cooke and the late David Niven, have narrated UN films. Some films feature footage of entertainers who have participated in UN activities, such as the late Audrey Hepburn and Danny Kaye.

There are more than 100 UN films and videos in active distribution. Many of the older ones shot on 16mm film are out of circulation. (AP)

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Beersheba Sinfonietta promises dynamic season

By MICHAEL AJENSTADT

The Israel Sinfonietta Beersheba has regular ups and downs in its seasons. Some concerts can be very exciting, as the one that opened the previous season, for example, while on other occasions the orchestra can be much less inspiring. All in all, music director Uri Mayer manages to maintain a solid musical ensemble in the south of Israel which brings

the joys of classical music to locales such as Arad, Dimona, Kiryat Gat and Ashkelon and to its very loyal audience in Beersheba while performing in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem as well.

The coming Sinfonietta season, starting September 6, is the most dynamic the orchestra has presented in several years, artists-wise.

The season opens with ravishing pianist Christina Ortiz playing Beethoven's "Emperor"

piano concerto and will feature conductors Yoav Talmi, Eri Klass and Arnold Katz, as well as soloists such as trumpet player Markus Stockhausen, violinist Pierre Amoyal, and young, up-and-coming Israelis such as Aviram Reichart, Yevgeni Yehudin and Karen Tanenbaum in one major series of 10 classical music concerts and six light classics concerts focusing on the music of Mozart, Dvorak, Handel, Haydn, Strauss and

Tchaikovsky.

The Sinfonietta's popular opera series features four mini-concert versions of operas, including *Eugene Onegin* and *Don Giovanni* without chorus, and with two or three singers performing the highlights of each opera.

Among the soloists in this upcoming series are Sharon Rostorf, Larisa Tanuev, Susanna Poretsky, Yevgeny Shapovalov, Felix Livshitz, Vladimir Braun,

Dan Ettinger and Yuri Kissin.

The major highlights of the coming season are Yoram Leef's *Fantasia and Whispers* for trumpet and orchestra, the Copland clarinet concerto, Cimarosa's *Il maestro di Capella* and others.

An altogether balanced season with some brilliant soloists and conductors who just might inspire the orchestra to become more than a solid ensemble and play music more vivaciously.

Kahalani evidence extends Ben-Ari remand

A High Court justice extended Zvi Ben-Ari's detention another 15 days yesterday after prosecutors said they had evidence from Russia linking him to crimes abroad.

Justice Ya'acov Kedmi was shown classified material obtained by Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, who has been visiting Russia and Ukraine since last week.

Ben-Ari's attorney, Yoram Sheftel, whose former client John Demjanjuk was acquitted by the High Court after being convicted of war crimes, was critical of Kahalani's involvement in Ben-Ari's case.

"A minister who involves himself in seeking evidence in a police investigation turns the probe into a political investigation, which means that Ben-Ari

should be released right now," Sheftel argued.

Sheftel asserted that the last time that a minister got involved in an investigation was then-prime minister Shimon Peres who brought the Trawniki Card to Israel from the former Soviet Union in the 1980s, to be used as evidence against Demjanjuk.

The card helped prosecutors get Demjanjuk convicted of being a death camp guard in Treblinka Death Camp in Poland during World War II. But Demjanjuk was acquitted in 1993 by the Supreme Court, who said he may have been a victim of mistaken identity.

Ben-Ari, jailed since May, has already spent 107 days behind bars, although he hasn't been indicted. He is suspected of bank fraud, abetting murder, and trying to influence politicians. (Iim)



Zvi Ben-Ari (center) sits in the High Court yesterday flanked by police guards, as Justice Ya'acov Kedmi extends his detention by another 15 days. (Isaac Harari)

Kahalani in Ukraine fender bender

By Jerusalem Post Staff

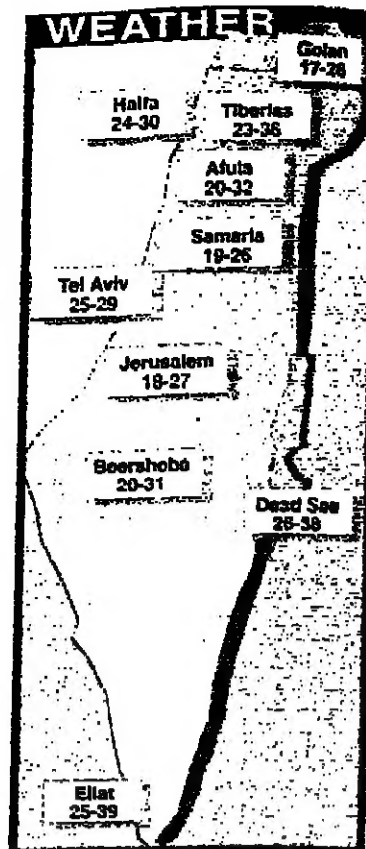
Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani was lightly injured yesterday in a traffic accident in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev.

His spokesman, Rafi Levy, said the car carrying Kahalani and Ukraine's deputy interior minister collided with other vehicles in the

convoy, as Kahalani was headed to a meeting with the Ukrainian interior minister.

Kahalani was lightly scratched and didn't require any medical attention, Levy said.

"The Ukrainians were so embarrassed by the accident that they couldn't stop apologizing," Levy said.



Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. Relatively low temperatures for the season.

Location	Temp	Wind	Clouds
Amsterdam	18	SE 10	partly
Beijing	28	SE 10	partly
Buenos Aires	16	SE 10	partly
Calcutta	32	SE 10	partly
Chicago	13	SE 10	partly
Copenhagen	17	SE 10	partly
Frankfurt	17	SE 10	partly
Geneva	17	SE 10	partly
Helsinki	16	SE 10	partly
Hong Kong	26	SE 10	partly
Jakarta	28	SE 10	partly
London	15	SE 10	partly
Los Angeles	23	SE 10	partly
Madrid	18	SE 10	partly
Moscow	11	SE 10	partly
Munich	17	SE 10	partly
Nairobi	21	SE 10	partly
Paris	17	SE 10	partly
Rome	20	SE 10	partly
Seoul	28	SE 10	partly
Stockholm	15	SE 10	partly
Taipei	28	SE 10	partly
Tokyo	23	SE 10	partly
Yokohama	23	SE 10	partly
Zurich	17	SE 10	partly

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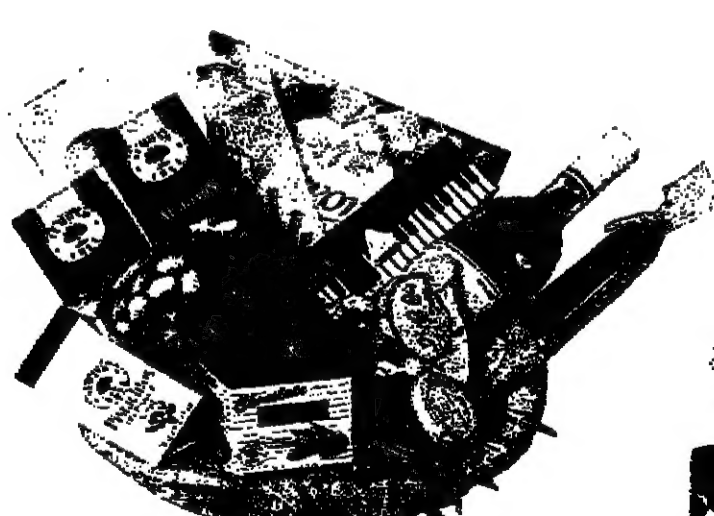
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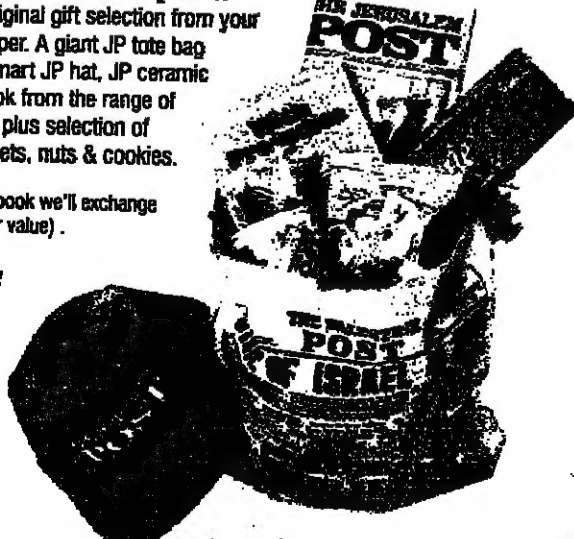
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Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's first daily Chance drawing (277/97), the winning cards were the 10 of spades, the 10 of hearts, the 10 of diamonds and the 9 of clubs. In the second drawing (278/97) the winning cards were the 8 of spades, the 7 of hearts, the ace of diamonds and 9 of clubs. In yesterday's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 2, 7, 26, 36, 37, 38 and the supplementary number was 12.

Search for missing soldier

Police conducted searches yesterday in the area of Kochav Ya'ir, the hometown of soldier Guy Hever who has been missing for 10 days. The searches, which turned up no clues, were launched on the basis of hopes that Hever may be headed to the area. (Iim)

Mevasseret squatters released on bail

The Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday released 14 of the 15 squatters who had been arrested during their eviction from the Mevasseret Zion absorption center on Monday. They were released on NIS 20,000 bail each.

One squatter remains in custody on suspicion of drug possession, and will appear in court for a remand hearing tomorrow.

Judge Carmi Mosek refused a police request to remand four of the squatters on suspicion of weapons possession and of inciting the others to resist eviction. Police said the four had prepared firebombs, but the judge noted that no firebombs were found.

Mosek retracted an earlier comment that the eviction may not have been legal because 30 days had passed since the squatters had occupied the apartments. After 30 days, a court order is required for eviction, and none was obtained. He noted later, however, that since the Jewish Agency had filed its complaint with

in 30 days of the break-in, the police action was legal.

Since the eviction, several dozen policemen have been guarding the absorption center to prevent the squatters' reentry. The Jewish Agency has also hired private guards to remain in the flats.

Dozens of those evicted gathered at the Mevasseret local council offices yesterday to discuss their next moves. Several said they were considering breaking into the absorption center again, as they had nowhere else to sleep.

Labor MK Ophir Pines wrote to Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush yesterday, asking that his ministry find living solutions for those who had been evicted, even if only in a hotel, so that children would have a place to return to after school.

Housing Ministry spokesman Moshe Eliaz replied that solutions had been found for some of the families, and that 28 others that were eligible for rent subsidies had been offered them. (Iim)

Shahak still studying jail riot findings

By LIAT COLLINS and Iim

Chief-of-General Staff Amnon Lipkin Shahak yesterday told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that although he was not done studying the report on the Military Prison 6 uprising, he felt conclusions should be drawn regarding the fact that light offenders were imprisoned together with soldiers convicted of serious crimes.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid called on the IDF to stick to the agreement signed with the prisoners that helped bring a peaceful end to the Aug. 11 rebellion.

Sarid said that while it was infuriating to make deals with criminals, and awkward to have to carry out what was promised, the army

had to keep its word to maintain credibility.

Other MKs echoed the view. Yisrael Ba'aliya whip MK Roman Bronfmam said he planned to meet the 13 of the rebellion's leaders when he visits the prison today. Four other right-leaders were already moved to Prison 4.

State Prosecutor Edna Arbel met yesterday with the IDF's chief prosecutor, Brig. Gen. Uri Shoham, to discuss the validity of the agreement reached with the prisoners. They postponed drawing any conclusions pending further investigation of the rebellion.

Some officials, notably the IDF's manpower head, Gen. Gideon Sheffer, are pressing the prosecutor's office not to honor the accord because it was drawn up under duress.

Guidelines to be set for school on-line services

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The increasing use of computers in the schools has led the Education Ministry to set up a panel to establish ethical principles and guidelines for use of the Internet and data bases in the schools.

According to a ministry spokesman, the panel will be headed by a judge. It will deal with such matters as privacy, protection of data, and exposure to racist or pornographic Web sites, according to Yaffa Vigodsky, director of the ministry's Science and Technology Administration.

"The formulation and publication of a code of ethics will give pupils the tools for more critical and intelligent use of the unlimited information available on the various lines of communication," she explained.